

WRESTLING
MONTHLY

OCTOBER 1978



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Wrestling MONTHLY



BOB BACKLUND'S BLOODY BAPTISM

WHO'S WRESTLING'S
MOST POPULAR
PERFORMER?

SHOULD THE SHEIK
BE BANNED FROM WRESTLING?
THE VON STEIGERS: 'WE'RE
THE GREATEST TAG TEAM!'



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they all got there with Duraclean!



by Ron Bonomo

"With a wife and six children to raise, I had to look to more than my factory job to make ends meet. I never knew when there'd be another layoff. I'm just lucky that my moonlighting work was for a Duraclean dealer. I learned about the Duraclean services and saw what a gold mine this business could be.

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Due to the tremendous volume of mail that we receive we can no longer give personal answers to inquiries. In the future we will simply select the most significant questions and answer them in our readers' columns in WRESTLING MONTHLY and WRESTLING REVUE.

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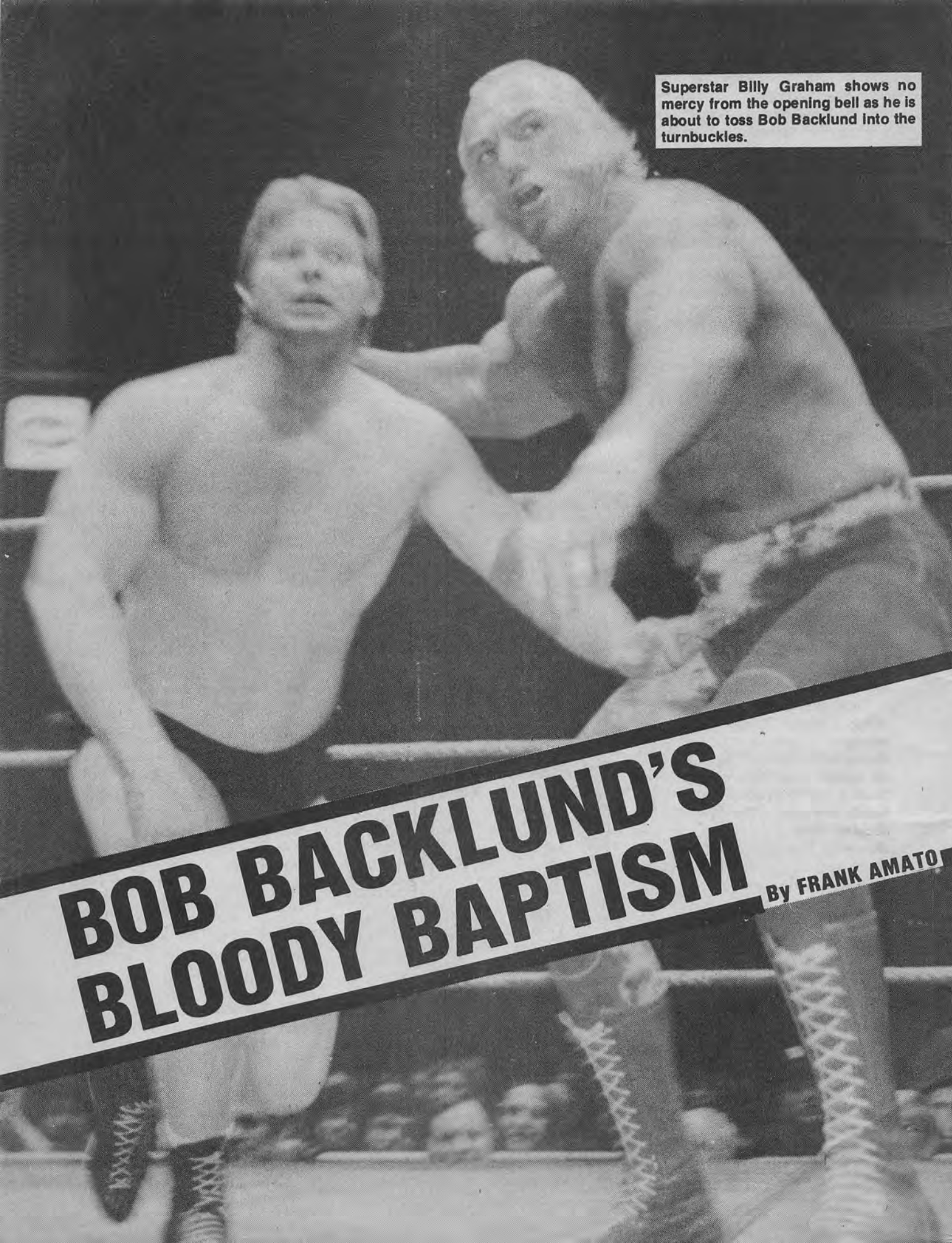
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Superstar Billy Graham shows no mercy from the opening bell as he is about to toss Bob Backlund into the turnbuckles.

BOB BACKLUND'S BLOODY BAPTISM

By FRANK AMATO

The reporters from the major wrestling magazines, United Press International and Associated Press were gathered outside the World Wide Wrestling Federation office the day after Bob Backlund had stunned the wrestling world by beating Superstar Billy Graham for the WWWF heavyweight championship at Madison Square Garden.

Inside the office were the WWWF executives along with Bob Backlund, Superstar Billy Graham and his manager The Grand Wizard. The WWWF officers had called this special meeting to determine if Bob Backlund was to remain as champion or if the belt should be given back to the dethroned champion Graham.

The Grand Wizard demanded to be present at this hearing in protest of what had transpired at the arena the night before. Graham had been pinned by Backlund but Graham had placed his right leg over the bottom rope during the count by the referee, who claimed he did not see the leg over the rope.

All the reporters waited patiently but with great anticipation. All speculated as to what would be the outcome of this meeting. Some were pro-Backlund; some were pro-Graham; some decided not to offer any opinion.

Then the door of the WWWF office opened and Backlund emerged. Immediately reporters thrust their microphones at Bob and all asked what decision had been made if any. Bob quietly held up his hands and said, "The WWWF has decided that I'm to remain the champion. I'm mighty glad they want me to keep this gold belt. I'll try my very best to give honor to the title."

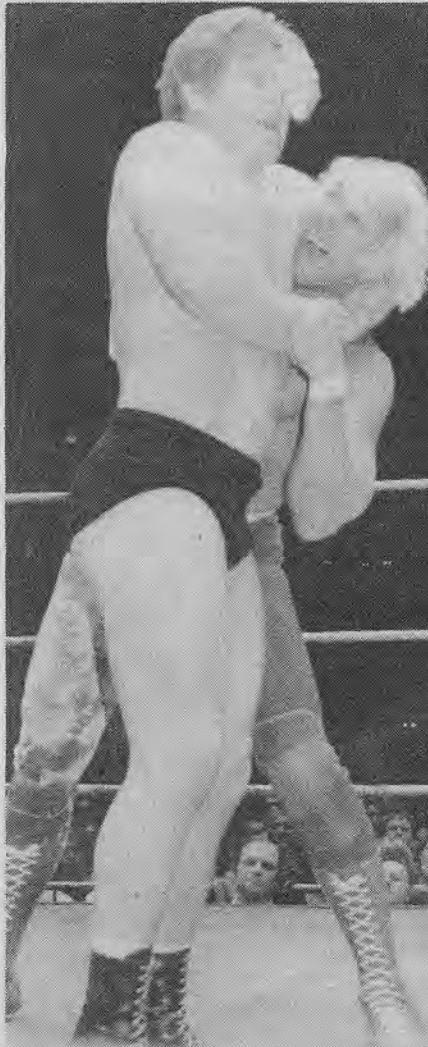
One reporter asked what exactly went on in the inner office. Bob replied, "I won't tell everything about what went on but a film was shown of the match from beginning to end. The all-important pin was shown time and again, even in slow motion. After lengthy discussion, the matter was voted for in my favor. As was announced in the Garden last night a rematch will take place next month between Graham and myself. I would like to add that I'm sorry that my winning the WWWF belt had to happen this way. I just hope the rematch will determine that I truly

deserve this great honor."

With that Backlund excused himself and left the building. A few minutes later Superstar Billy Graham and The Grand Wizard emerged from the WWWF office and the looks on their faces told the story.

Once again the microphones were thrust their way, but before questions were asked Wizard took the floor, "Gentlemen, a miscarriage of justice was performed on us and the world of wrestling. It was an abortion that was bungled on the truth. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. A whole film was shown that is worth a billion words but blinders were worn in that office. Bob Backlund stole the title from us. He had help from a hand-picked referee. It is a sad day."

Superstar Graham spoke up, "My belt is now being worn by a thief. He



Superstar Graham rakes the eyes of Bob Backlund in an attempt to free himself from a side headlock.

knows he won that belt by shady means. He knows deep down he should have volunteered to hand over the belt to me. He knows my foot was over the rope during the count. Bob Backlund wears a belt he truly doesn't deserve."

Wizard spoke again, "We have signed for a rematch and this time we will win. Backlund skulks away knowing he was given a gift. I have asked permission from the WWWF to be in Superstar's corner for the rematch and it was granted. This is to insure that there will be no recurrence like in the last match. Bob Backlund is doomed. He better get all the photos taken of himself wearing the belt because after this rematch the belt will be back in Superstar's possession where it rightfully belongs."

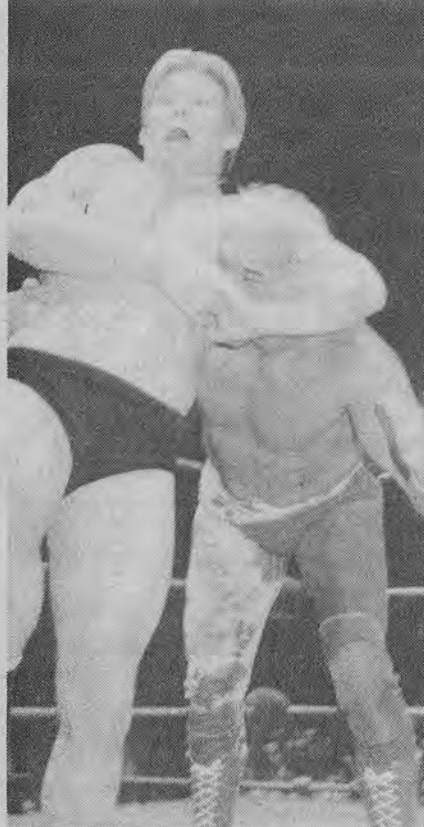
Superstar interjected, "I'm going to show no mercy. I will be more vicious and ruthless than ever before. I will show Backlund that his victory was only a fluke. If I can beat guys like Chief Maivia, Bruno Sammartino, Ivan Putski and Dusty Rhodes I can easily beat Backlund."

One month later the rematch came to pass. Superstar Billy Graham and his manager The Grand Wizard made their appearance first. Boos and jeers greeted them but there were some cheers as well for Graham does have his contingent of fans. Then the arena filled with cheers as Bob Backlund, wearing a long black robe, headed for the ring. Also making his way behind Bob was Arnold Skoaland.

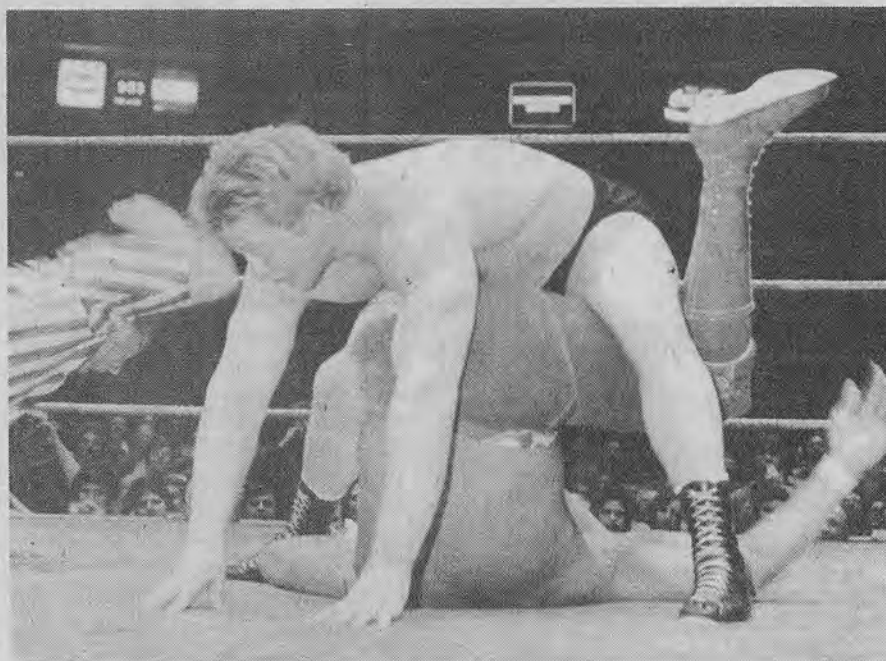
Ever since Backlund had won the WWWF belt he had been besieged with offers from wrestling managers all over the country for their services, but until now Bob hadn't picked a manager. Skoaland, who also manages former two-time WWWF champion Bruno Sammartino, was Backlund's new mentor.

Superstar Graham attacked Backlund from behind when the new champion turned his attention to Wizard. Graham was ruthless as he battered Backlund. It was clearly evident that Graham was going to back up his boast about being merciless.

But Backlund battled back, not with a two-fisted attack which would be expected but with scientific holds



Graham's foul tactics only arouse the ire of Backlund and he simply applies more pressure to the side headlock.



Bob Backlund nearly ended matters here after catching Superstar Billy Graham in a reverse roll.



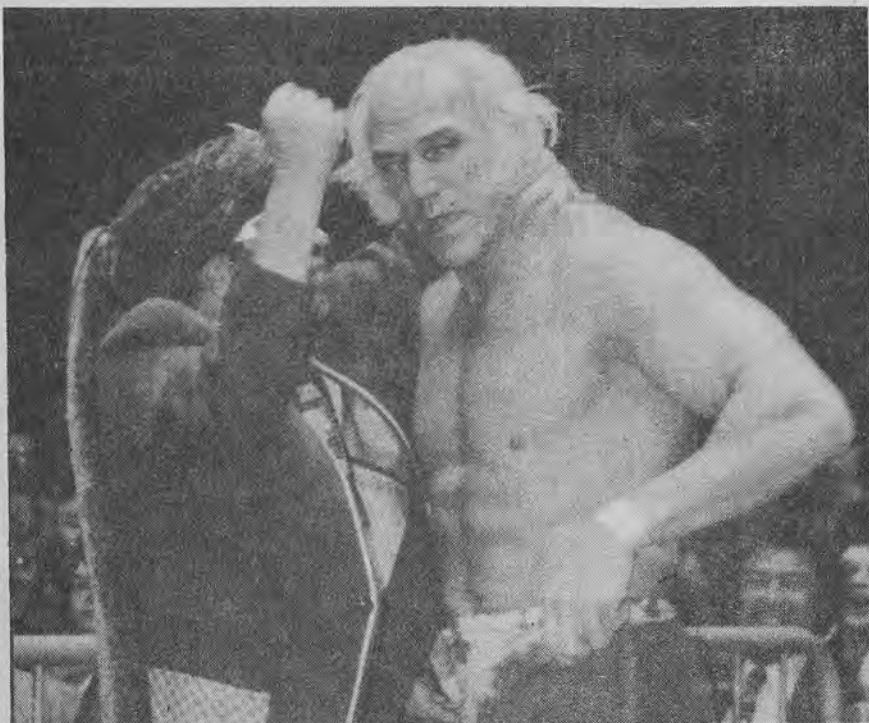
A sure way of softening up an opponent is a bodyslam and here Backlund is about to send Graham crashing to the mat.

which stunned the former WWF champion. Graham seemed befuddled by the tactics of the clean-cut, young champion.

The match became a fast but furious battle of roughhouse tactics by Graham and scientific tactics by Backlund. Graham would batter Backlund and attempt a pin. Backlund would power out and use razzle-dazzle holds to try and pin Graham. Graham also would power out. It clearly became a struggle of good versus evil.

When things would go wrong for Graham he would leave the ring to converse with his manager Wizard. When Graham would return to wrestle his tactics became more fierce and determined. Then as the title match reached a furious height Graham captured Backlund in his famous Bearhug. Backlund held on for dear life as he struggled to free himself. Then slowly he managed to get his arms between Graham's and broke free.

Now Backlund poured on the pressure trying to end matters. He tossed Graham around and captured him in his Abdominal Stretch. The fans cheered for Backlund to end it but Graham called on something



The tide of battle is going against him, so Superstar Graham leaves the ring to confer with his manager The Grand Wizard.

extra and managed to flip Backlund over his hip. Now Graham left the ring again to speak with Wizard. Graham returned with a two-fisted attack which stunned and hurt the champion. Then Graham tossed Backlund from the ring.

Backlund was on the ring apron trying to get back in the ring when he was met by Graham who rammed Backlund's head into the steel ringpost. Backlund fell to the cement floor. Graham followed him out and kicked, punched and bit Backlund's head cut until it bled.

The sight of Backlund's blood flowing freely seemed to spur Graham on and he continued to batter the bloody and almost defenseless champion.

The claret was flowing freely and many of the pro-Backlund fans were wondering how long their hero could withstand this vicious assault.

It didn't take long for their question to be answered, as the referee ordered a halt in hostilities to check with the ringside physician and ask whether the bout should be stopped.

After examining Backlund's wound, the doctor told the referee to stop the bout as Backlund had shed too much blood.

So, Graham was declared the

winner but it was a hollow victory as Superstar hadn't reclaimed his WWWF championship belt because the rules state the championship can only change hands via a pin or submission.

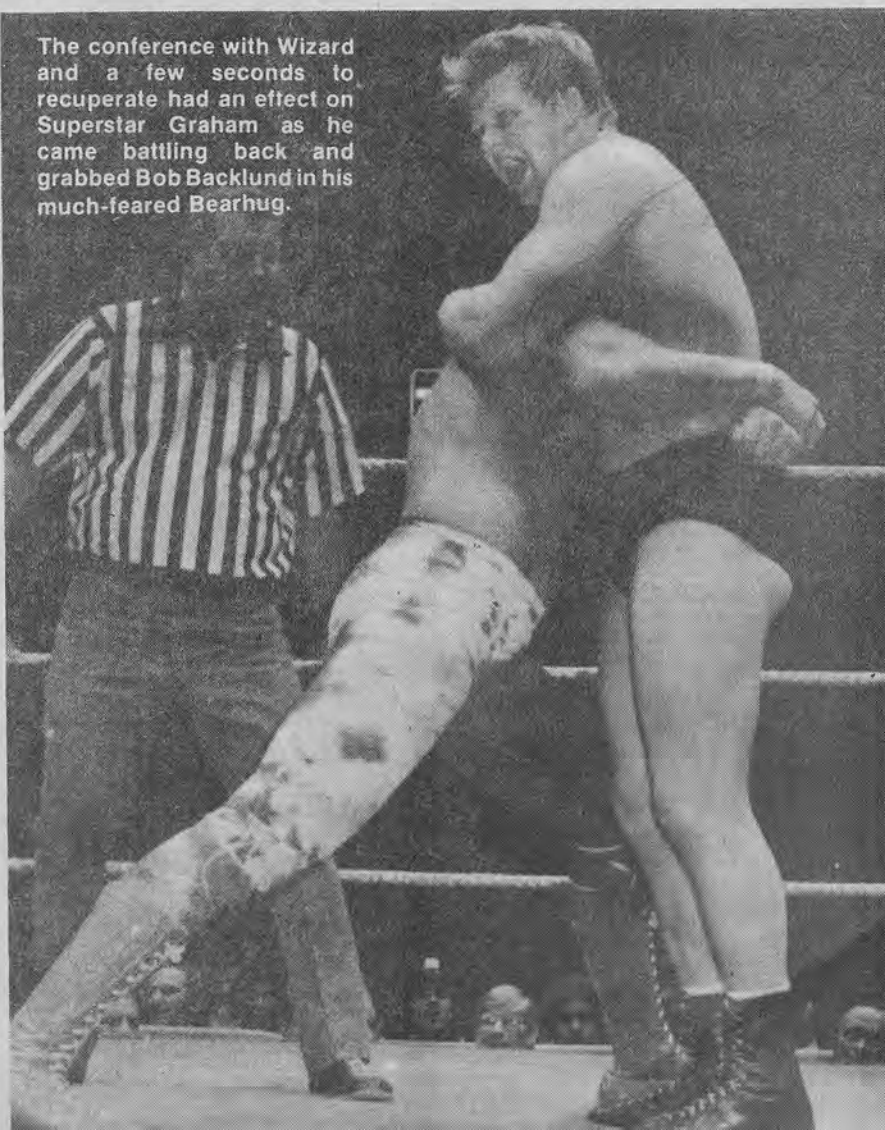
Naturally, the decision didn't meet with the approval of either Graham or his manager The Grand Wizard.

"What you saw tonight was a clear case of protecting Bob Backlund. We seem to have reverted back to the days of Pedro Morales and Bruno Sammartino, two of the most protected champions in the history of wrestling.

"You reporters saw Backlund beg the doctor to stop the destruction. I was sitting there at ringside and heard him clearly, I feared this would happen once Backlund started to bleed. I could see the wheels turning in Backlund's empty head and I heard him clearly. I feared this would yelling for the referee to stop the slaughter."

Superstar Graham added, "I had

The conference with Wizard and a few seconds to recuperate had an effect on Superstar Graham as he came battling back and grabbed Bob Backlund in his much-feared Bearhug.



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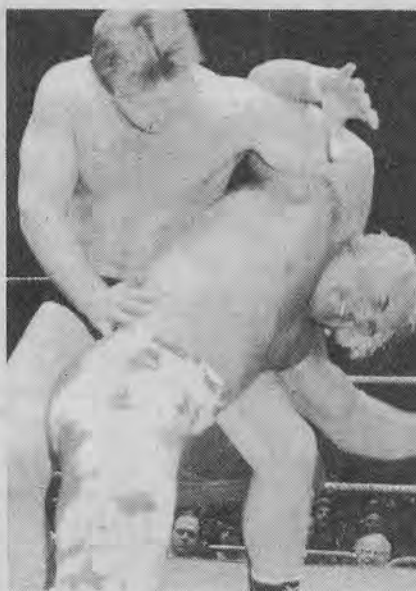
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Bob Backlund beaten like a whipped dog. The man was helpless and at my mercy, I could have pinned him any time I pleased.

"I had the WWF championship back in my hands, but had it stolen again. However, the next time I will get my revenge and definitely regain my rightful title.

"Wizard has demanded a Steel Cage Bout next time. I love Steel Cage Bouts because I've never lost one. In my last two, I beat Bruno Sammartino and Ivan Putski. How can Baby Boy Backlund hope to win when he never was involved in this type of contest? The WWF belt will be mine next time."

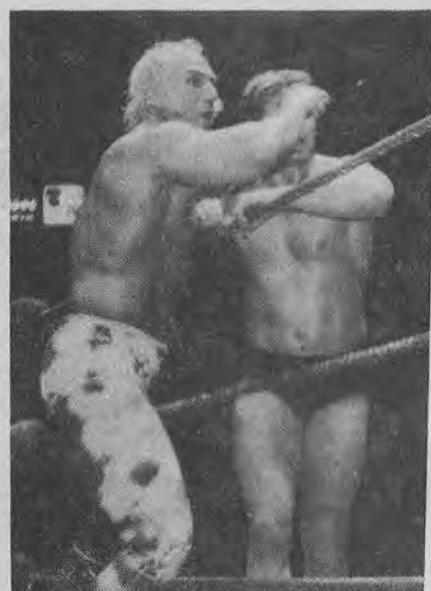
The Grand Wizard smiled broadly, "Ah yes, Superstar. You are so right. You are the champion of Steel Cage Bouts and that is why I demanded one. There will be no referee this time to stop the match, there will be no rules of any kind. No falls, no stopping for blood. Definately no countouts and no time limit. This time Backlund can't plead to have the match stopped like he did tonight. This time things will be different, it will be total slaughter and the end of Baby Boobie Backlund as champion. A title he



Superstar Billy Graham is in dire straits here as Bob Backlund applies an Abdominal Stretch, but Graham refused to submit despite the pain.

doesn't deserve anyway."

The Steel Cage Match will have a definite winner to be sure. This time Backlund was lucky the match was stopped. He was obviously helpless at the end. His scientific holds were not enough to offset the riotous tactics of Superstar. It was far from



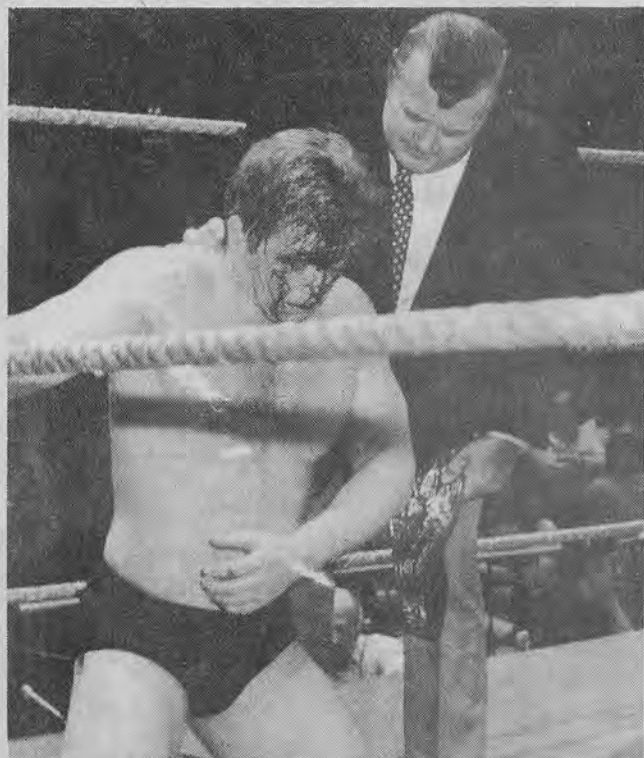
Superstar Graham shows he'll win at any cost as he's about to ram Bob Backlund's head into the ring post.

an auspicious debut as champion.

All the reporters who watched this match agreed that Backlund would have to throw away the rulebook in this upcoming Steel Cage Bout. If he doesn't, his title reign will end. Perhaps his whole mat career hangs in the balance.



A bloodied and battered Bob Backlund hangs on to the ropes to keep from falling off the ring apron.



Manager Arnold Skoaland tends to a bloody Bob Backlund, who lost the match but retained his World Wide Wrestling Federation championship belt.

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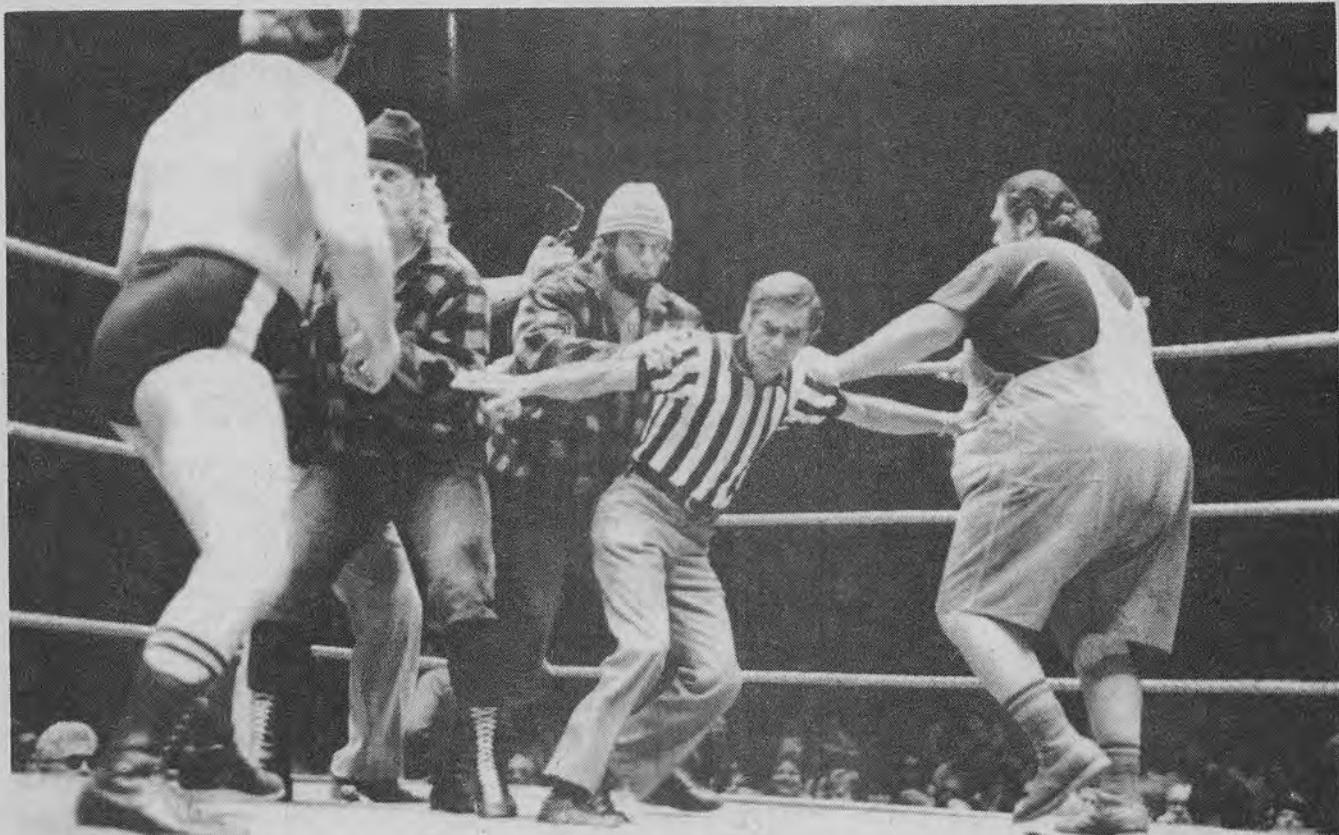
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GOTHAM GRAPPLING SCENE

By J.M. CARRINO



The referee has his hands full trying to keep Larry Zbyszko (left) and Haystack Calhoun away from the Yukon Lumberjacks before their tag-team tussle even gets under way.



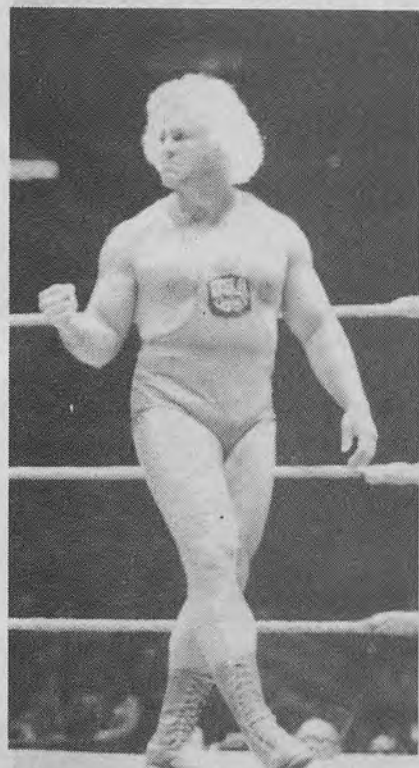
The referee asks one of the Yukon Lumberjacks if he's ready to concede as Haystack Calhoun twists his arm.



Here's Larry Zbyszko at work, flipping both of the Yukon Lumberjacks during an action-packed tag-team bout.



Another of the mat meanies on the Gotham grappling scene is Crazy Luke Graham.



The strongest man in the grappling game may well be Ken Patera, who obviously wasn't in the best of moods when this picture was taken.



Stan (The Man) Stasiak tests the masked Mil Mascaras in a test of strength.



Speaking of strength, Mil Mascaras demonstrates his leg strength here as he is about to flip Stan Stasiak.



One of the most popular performers on the Gotham grappling scene is Chief Peter Maivia who acknowledges the cheers of the fans as he is introduced prior to a bout.



World Wide Wrestling Federation champion Bob Backlund removes his belt before swinging into action in another championship clash.

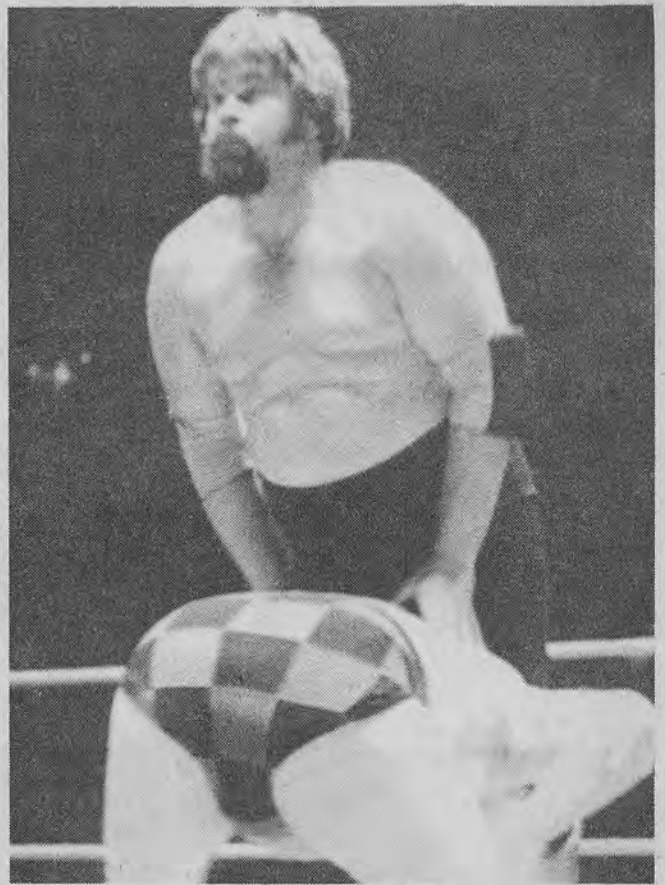


It's tit for tat in these two photos of the Peter Maivia-Spiros Arion scrap. Arion delivers a kick to the midsection of a kneeling Maivia. Then, it's Maivia's turn to retaliate with a karate chop to the neck of Arion.

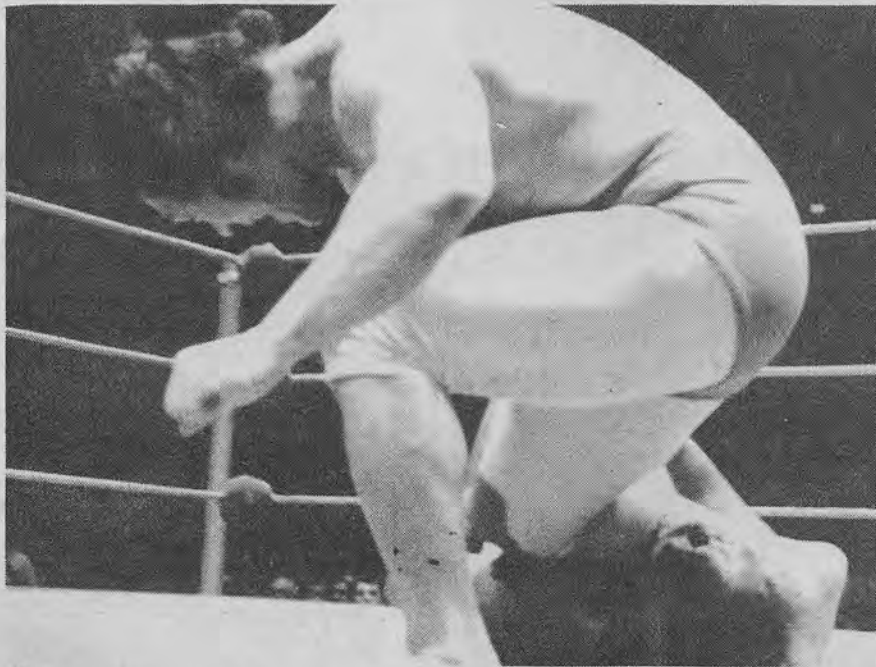




Spiros (The Iron Greek) Arion is making life miserable for Peter Maivia as he applies a bearhug.

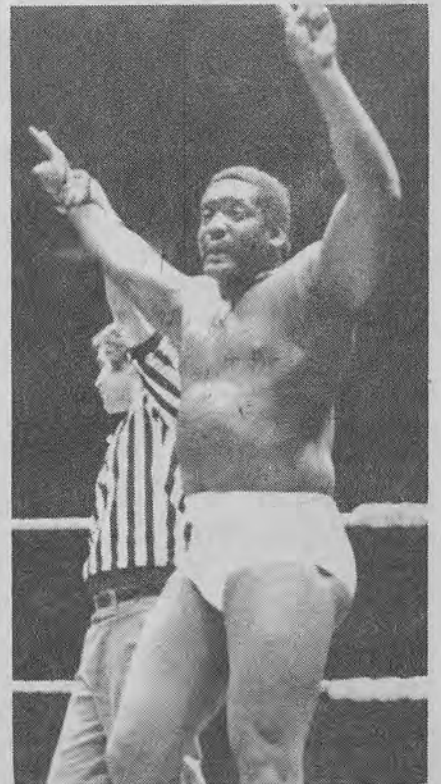


Tank Patton is about to give his opponent an earache as he leaps in the air while applying a leg scissors on his foe's head.



▲ **The outlook doesn't appear too bright for S.D. Jones here as Royal Kobayashi plants his knee on Jones' throat.**

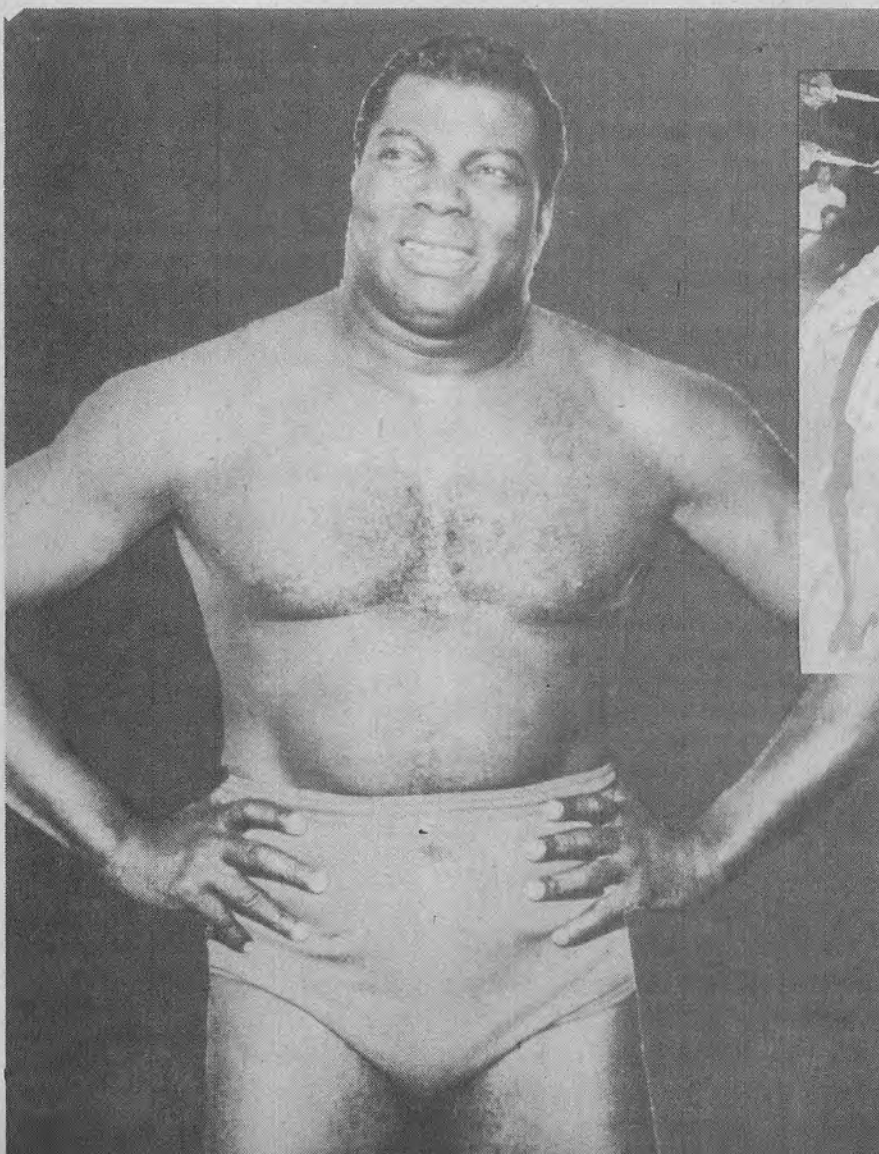
However, all's well that ends well and the fans' favorite S.D. Jones has his hand raised in victory. ▶



WHO'S WRESTLING'S MOST POPULAR PERFORMER?

HERE'S A VOTE FOR **BOBO BRAZIL**

by DAN ROSENBURG



Bobo Brazil played 'law enforcer' in this match as he was handcuffed to The Sheik's manager Eddie Creachman so he couldn't interfere in the match between Tony Marino and The Sheik.

Bobo Brazil, the ageless wonder of the wrestling world, is one of the grappling game's most popular performers.

It's fantasy time. Suppose this magazine conducted a poll to determine the most popular wrestler of all time. Who would you vote for? Vern Gagne? Lou Thesz? Pat O'Connor? Argentina Rocca? Yukon Eric? Don Leo Jonathan? Yvon Robert? Bruno Sammartino? Andre the Giant? Edouard Carpentier?

Take your pick. Undoubtedly there are thousands of other bona fide candidates in addition to those mentioned above, and you could probably start a lively debate on the subject. But this corner has a nomination of its own to make: His name is Robert (Bobo) Brazil.

Bobo has been thrilling wrestling fans all over the world for years with his devastating coco butt and his seemingly endless supply of energy and reserve strength.

Perhaps one of the greatest athletes of all time (he could have made it big as a major league baseball star if he had so preferred), it is about time somebody wrote a tribute to Bobo while he is still one of the game's most active performers.

"I guess I'll wrestle two more years," Bobo was saying the other day during a tour of the Province of Quebec with the newly formed World Wrestling Association. "Then I'll go home to Benton Harbor, Mich., and hang it up. I'll just relax and do my favorite thing, which is fishing. I've already got my boat all polished up and everything."

It would not be exaggerating to state that when Bobo Brazil retires, the entire wrestling fraternity will be in mourning. But constant battering, coupled with the mental and physical fatigue of travelling all over the globe, are contributing factors in his

decision.

"The fans think it's a glamorous life," Bobo confided. "They think it's easy, but I have news for them. It's a hard job, just like any other job. You have to be on the ball all the time."

"The fans think wrestling is a life of cake and honey, but you have to travel thousands of miles. Once I flew from New York to Tokyo (a journey of roughly 20 hours) and had to wrestle an hour later. I barely had time to take a shower and change my clothes. At a pace like that, you take a big beating. I slept like a log afterwards."

"Wrestling is like anything else. You have to work hard for your money. Not only that, but you always have to keep yourself in tiptop condition. That's a very necessary thing because the fans aren't stupid. They can tell if you're big and fat and out of shape."

"Nobody wants to come to a wrestling match and see some guy with his belly drooping out of his trunks. The fans want to be proud of their wrestlers. They want to be able

to point to a wrestler and say, 'That's a man!'"

Bobo says his first aspiration was to be a big league ball player, but "that was a long time ago." I was a good-hitting first baseman with the old Kansas City Athletics organization," he recalls, "but when I played it was rough (for a black man). Jackie Robinson may have been before my time," he says of the man who broke the color barrier in baseball in 1946, "but I had the popularity of Willie Mays and Hank Aaron to contend with. You couldn't buck those guys. They were the greatest."

Actually, Bobo admits to starting out with a sandlot team called the House of David before trying to crack the A's. "But all I got was the run-around," he recalls, "and they shifted me to the Minnesota Twins organization. So I quit and turned to wrestling."

But Bobo Brazil did not become a big-time wrestling star overnight. Far from it.

It was a humble beginning for Bobo in the grunt 'n' groan profession.

"I went to watch the wrestling matches in my hometown one night," he recalls, "and the promoter in the Detroit area in those days was Jumpin' Joe Savoldi. Well, one night there was this guy in the ring named Big Jim Eisenhower challenging all comers. Fans were actually invited to take him on, and a few even volunteered."

"Anyway, I was with my cousin and he told me, 'I won't let you go up there.'" But I went up there anyway with seven or eight other guys and Savoldi picked me to wrestle Eisenhower. The rest of the guys were told to sit down."

"I guess you would like to hear a Cinderella ending, but I was tall and skinny in those days and Eisenhower beat me in less than a minute."

Undaunted, Brazil didn't get discouraged and quit.

"Savoldi told me, 'You did a good job, son,' but to tell you the truth, I was scared to death," he recalls. "He asked me if I'd be interested in wrestling the following week, and for some strange reason I told him I was."

"So the following week, all my buddies came to the arena to see me get beat by Al Wasuska and they



Over the years, Bobo Brazil has been in against some of the best wrestlers in the business. Here, he works on the arm of Jack Brisco.



Bobo Brazil checks Jerry Blackwell's dental work and the bearded villain obviously isn't enjoying the experience.

weren't disappointed. I didn't last too long this time either. He was a real pro."

Still, young Bobo stuck with it.

"The next week Savoldi put me in the ring with a guy named Bad Boy Brown. Even the name frightened me. He was a big, hairy guy, and if you're expecting me to say I won, forget it. I didn't do anything against him except make an ass out of myself.

"Still, for reasons known only to himself, Savoldi took a liking to me. I went to the gymnasium where he showed me a few tricks of the trade, and then I knew I really wanted to be a wrestler.

"Savoldi worked with me night and day. He taught me a lot. He showed me various holds and how to fall, which is very important. Then things started looking up. He took me to Minneapolis where I really got the experience I needed.

"I had a lot of bookings there — not one night a week but three or four nights a week. Besides Savoldi, I owe a lot of thanks to Wally Cobble who was the matchmaker and promoter in Minneapolis.

"One day he called me and I couldn't believe it. He said, 'I can't use you anymore, son, but I can send you someplace where they can.' That place was Toronto.

"The year was 1957," Bobo remembers, fondly. "Frank Tunney, the Toronto promoter, and Whipper

Billy Watson (Canadian heavyweight champ at that time)



Bobo Brazil struggles to regain his feet and rubs his throat after being the victim of a chokehold by Don (Bulldog) Kent.

took me under their wing and I really went places."

"I made more money that one year than I ever thought I'd see in my lifetime."

Bobo has invested that money wisely. Among other things, he owns a hotel, restaurant and several apartment houses in his native Michigan.

"At first Tunney used me in preliminary matches only, but he must have seen something in me he liked and I soon made it to the top. My first main event was a really big one against Hans Herrmann and it sold out Maple Leaf Gardens.

Bobo's next opponent was the great Sky Hi Lee, and from that point on, there was no stopping him. Out of Toronto he took several engagements for late Montreal promoter Eddie Quinn and packed the Forum.

Then, it was on to California where he took Hollywood by storm. He stayed there a year and a half, wrestling and defeating all they had to offer, like Freddie Blassie, Buddy Austin, Mr. Moto and Don (Hard-Boiled) Haggarty.

From there it was Columbus, Ohio, where he developed long-standing feuds with Nature Boy Buddy Rogers and the Great Scott. Finally, he made it to New York's Madison Square Garden — every wrestler's dream — where he cut the mustard for promoter Vince McMahon.

The rest is history. "I've been to Japan many times," Bobo recalls fondly. "I've also wrestled in

Australia, New Zealand and India. Australia is No. 1 in my book. Everybody gets together and has a nice time. It's the same in Japan, but I don't know how to speak Japanese, and if you don't know how, you're lost. You feel like an outsider."

Toronto is among Bobo's favorite cities. "I love it. It's a great place," said Brazil, who is looking forward to wrestling there again in the near future. "I used to dig Montreal more than Toronto, but Toronto is on the ball now," he added.

"Before, there was no action in Toronto. At one time, you could shoot a cannon down Main Street in



Irate over Don Kent's tactics, Bob Brazil fights fire with fire as he attempts to drag Kent back into the ring by his hair.

Toronto on a Sunday morning and not wake a soul. But now it's just the opposite," he maintains.

While Bobo loves his hometown, he admits to being high on Los Angeles as a potential place to live. "The smog doesn't bother me" he says. "I love the weather there, because it's cold where I come from."

Bobo is just recently returned from Charlotte, N.C., where he reports that wrestling has reached its height of popularity.

"I've never seen fans turn out in such great numbers," he lauds. "And of course, the reason they come out is due to good promotion. The Crockett family promotes in North Carolina and they stay on top of what they're doing.

"They get good publicity, and you can't go anywhere in this business without publicity. The father (Crockett) promoted for years and now the son does a marvellous job. Of course, one of the keys to their

success is George Scott, who is probably the brains behind the organization. He books the tours and is probably one of the greatest bookers I've ever seen. He's got a sharp head on his body."

How about the late Eddie Quinn?

"He was a great promoter too, but he had the fellows to do the job for him. No promoter is an entity unto himself. It's the men he's got working for him who make him great. All the promoter has to do is come up with the money."

However, not all promoters score highly on Bobo's hit parade, and he is not one to mince words about his true feelings towards them.

"The only bad thing I can say about wrestling is that sometimes you have to fight the promoter in a addition to your opponent," he says, candidly. "Some of 'em (the promoters) are pretty seedy. Some are good ones, but there are a lot of bad ones. They pay the wrestlers with

rubber cheques.

"Would I ever consider promoting some day? Not on your life. I don't want any part of it."

Of course no conversation with, or discussion of, Bobo Brazil can be complete without detailed reference to his vaunted coco butt — the act of butting his foe into submission by constantly smashing his head on his opponent's noggin.

How did it all begin?

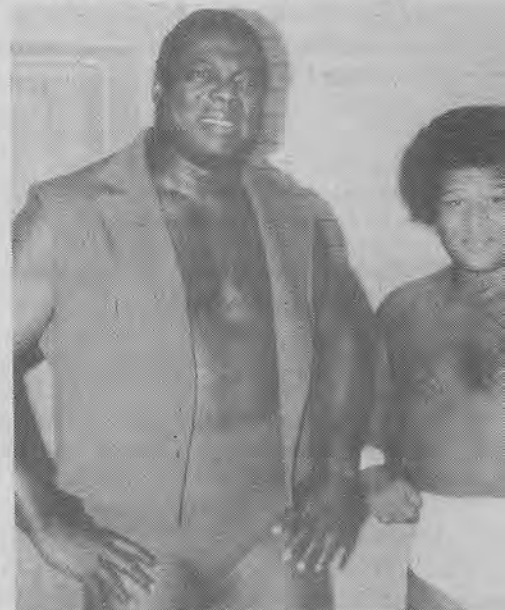
"I met a wrestler in Toledo, Ohio, named the Black Panther and he used it," Bobo recounts. "I became interested in it and he taught me how to use it.

"At first I had the damndest headaches, but eventually your head gets used to it. It's like pounding your fists on a block of wood or breaking bricks with your hands (karate). At first, your hands bleed, but then you develop callouses and you become immune to the pain. Well, it was the same thing with the coco butt. At first I thought I couldn't stand it, but the headaches eventually went away."

How many matches has Bobo had in his lifetime? Nobody knows for sure, not even Bobo.

"I'd need an adding machine, there've been so many," he chuckles. "That's what happens when you wrestle three or four nights a week for most of the year."

Bobo says it would almost



Bobo Brazil poses for a picture with an up-and-coming wrestling star Tiger Conway Jr.

Bobo Brazil and his arch-rival The Sheik have had one of the grappling game's bitterest feuds, and even former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis, in his role as guest referee, couldn't force them to abide by the rules.



impossible for him to name his toughest opponent.

"Once you get into that square circle (the ring), everybody does whatever is necessary to win," he points out. "Some guys are out to make a reputation for themselves and even preliminary boys with no experience would do anything to beat one of the men in the top 10."

Undoubtedly, though, the Sheik rates high on the list of Bobo Brazil antagonists. They have had a sizzling feud going for more years than Bobo would care to remember, and even ex-world heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis was brought in as a referee for one of their matches in an effort to keep law and order.

The most recent Sheik-Brazil meeting came on the new World Wrestling Association's recent tour of the Province of Quebec. The Sheik, armed with his ever-present screwdriver, attempted to chisel his initials in Bobo's skull and then brought out a ball of string in an apparent effort to not only hang Bobo in effigy but for real!

Bobo, when he discovered what the Sheik was up to, went "loco in the coco" — if you'll pardon the expression — and began coco-bumping everybody in sight. Even the referee was banged in the noggin during Bobo's blitz with the result that the Sheik was awarded a most controversial decision.

After a nettled Bobo regained his cool, he addressed the throng through the ring microphone. "I just told them that if that's the style the Sheik wants to wrestle with, I can use the same style," Bobo recalls. "If he wants to dish it out like that, I can do it too. I'll fight fire with fire."

Bobo parries questions about his chronological age.

"I'm not ever gonna be old," he proudly proclaims. "I'm an exercise freak, and I believe that's the best thing for your body. Even when I retire, I probably won't quit the ring completely. When you quit altogether, you only grow to be an old man," he said.

But last year Bobo needed a rest from the grind and left the North Carolina territory perhaps prematurely.

"In North Carolina I had something to do all the time," he recalls. "There was no time to rest. I

was always travelling. I was only home one or two weeks. I couldn't stand the pace. I had to get away to relax. I only do doubleheaders (two wrestling shows in one day) once in a blue moon now."

Bobo reveals that when he gets away from wrestling, he prefers to talk about other subjects. "When Mays and Aaron and I got together on occasion, we'd talk about old times and things in general," he said. "We'd never talk shop, because that's the type of thing we want to really get away from. You need a rest mentally from your profession."

"I only go to parties when the host promises no one will mention wrestling. But after one drink, the other guests invariably bring up the subject, and some of them even get rowdy and offer to take me on then and there. That's probably why I



Like many veteran wrestlers, Bobo Brazil is growing tired of the constant travel and plans to retire from the grappling game in two years..

don't go to many parties."

For recreation, Bobo prefers gangster and western movies. Also scary movies. "I'm not too much on comedies," he grins. "But I guess I must have about a million favorite actors and actresses. It would be hard to pin it down, but it's a shame the old-time actors are dying off now. I used to love watching Humphrey Bogart and Edward G. Robinson movies. Those guys were the greatest."

At one stage of his career, Bobo even considered going into movies. "That was when I was wrestling in L.A.," he recalls. "Someone from Hollywood approached three of us, including Wilbur Snyder and Sandor Szabo, who was the booking agent for the wrestlers on the Coast."

"Sandor made it plain to the movie people that they had to use him in order to use me, but it was mainly me they wanted. So Sandor said 'forget it'. It would have been nice, but I had an exclusive services contract with Szabo, and if I had made the movie without him he could have blackballed me from wrestling. I haven't been approached to go into movies since."

Bobo once attempted to impart his wrestling knowledge to an up-and-coming wrestler named Hank James, but that venture, too, turned sour.

"I trained him and started him off," Bobo remembers, "but wrestling was too good for him. He didn't really appreciate the business. You know, some guys have a loose screw upstairs and try to make a fool out of everybody else. Well, pretty soon this guy was trying to tell me what to do and how to do it. I stayed away from teaching guys how to wrestle after that."

Bobo admits that religion plays a "very important" part in his life, "but I'm not a fanatic, though," he adds.

"I go to church every chance I get but the main thing is that I believe in knowing right from wrong. If I could deliver a message to youngsters growing up that's the first thing I would explain to them — the difference between right and wrong."

"I can tell them by word of mouth, but then it's up to them to live it," he says. "I can knock on wood that I've never been to jail and I don't intend to go either. It's no fun being locked behind bars. In fact, I think I'd rather be in the ring facing The Sheik."

WRESTLING MONTHLY'S

RATINGS

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion - Bob Backlund

1. Superstar Billy Graham
2. Dusty Rhodes
3. Spiros Arion
4. Mil Mascaras
5. Ken Patera
6. Tatsumi Fujinami
7. Luke Graham
8. Dino Bravo
9. Peter Maivia
10. Chief Jay Strongbow

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

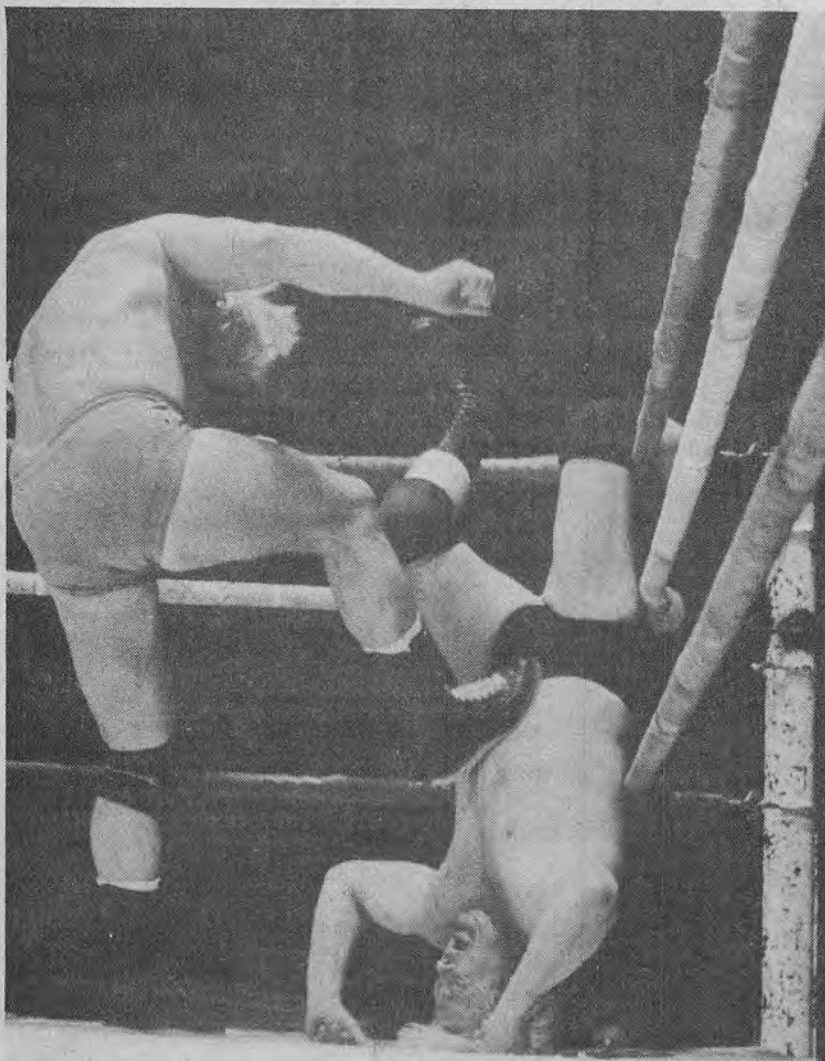
Champion - Nick Bockwinkel

1. Ray Stevens
2. Billy Robinson
3. Verne Gagne
4. Larry Hennig
5. Bob Orton Jr.
6. Greg Gagne
7. Jim Brunzell
8. Angelo Mosca
9. Rufus R. Jones
10. Super Destroyer

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion - Harley Race

1. Dusty Rhodes
2. Ric Flair
3. Jack Brisco
4. Tim Woods
5. Dick Slater
6. Paul Jones
7. Terry Funk
8. Rick Steamboat
9. Dory Funk Jr.
10. Stan Hansen



American Wrestling Association champion Nick Bockwinkel has Ray Stevens hung up on the ropes and makes the most of the opportunity by delivering a kick to Stevens' stomach.

TOP TAG TEAMS

1. Ric Flair and Greg Valentine
2. Jim Brunzell and Greg Gagne
3. Dino Bravo and Dominic DeNucci
4. Mike Graham and Steve Keirn
5. Paul Jones and Ricky Steamboat
6. Jack and Jerry Brisco
7. Ivan Koloff and Mr. Saito
8. Mr. Fuji and Professor Tanaka
9. Jim and John Valiant
10. Pat Patterson and Ray Stevens

VILEST VILLAINS

1. Ken Patera
2. Ivan Koloff
3. Spiros Arion
4. Ric Flair
5. Superstar Billy Graham
6. Stan Hansen
7. Greg Valentine
8. The Sheik
9. Killer Karl Kox
10. Ox Baker

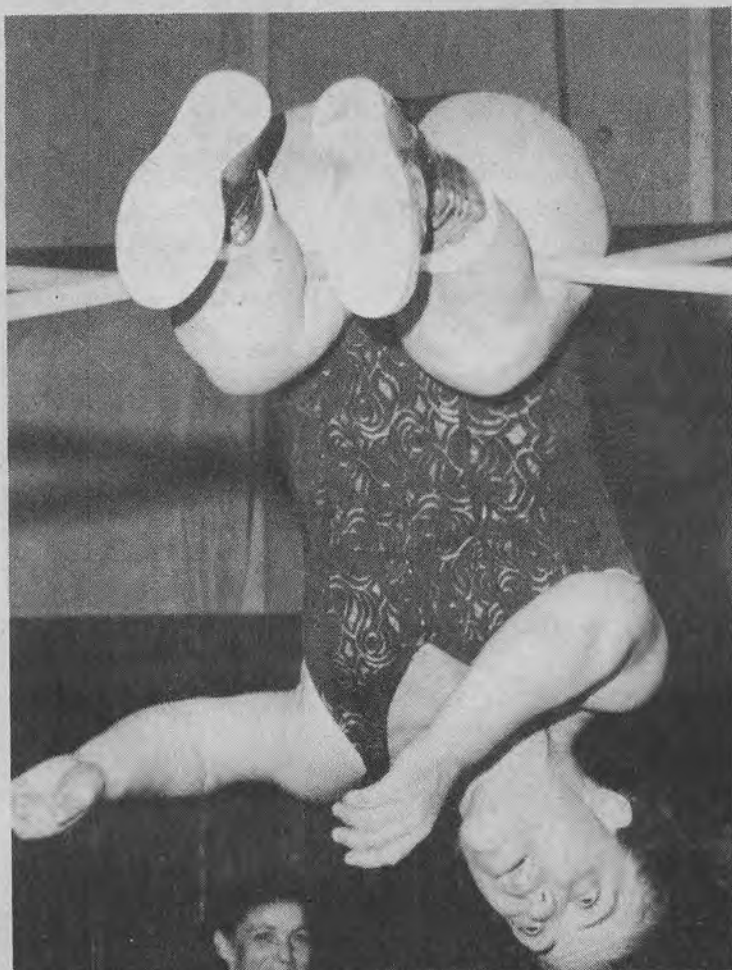
MOST POPULAR PERFORMERS

1. Andre The Giant
2. Dusty Rhodes
3. Bob Backlund
4. Mil Mascaras
5. Ricky Steamboat
6. Billy Robinson
7. Mr. Wrestling II
8. Ivan Putski
9. Paul Jones
10. Wahoo McDaniel

GORDON'S GRAPPLIN' By Gene Gordon



This spectacular shot shows Helmut Schmidt headed for a fall courtesy of a backdrop by Tommy Rich.



The hectic pace of the wrestling world can be topsy turvy and it certainly seemed that way to Diadmond Lil when she got hung up on the ropes during a match with Darling Dagmar.

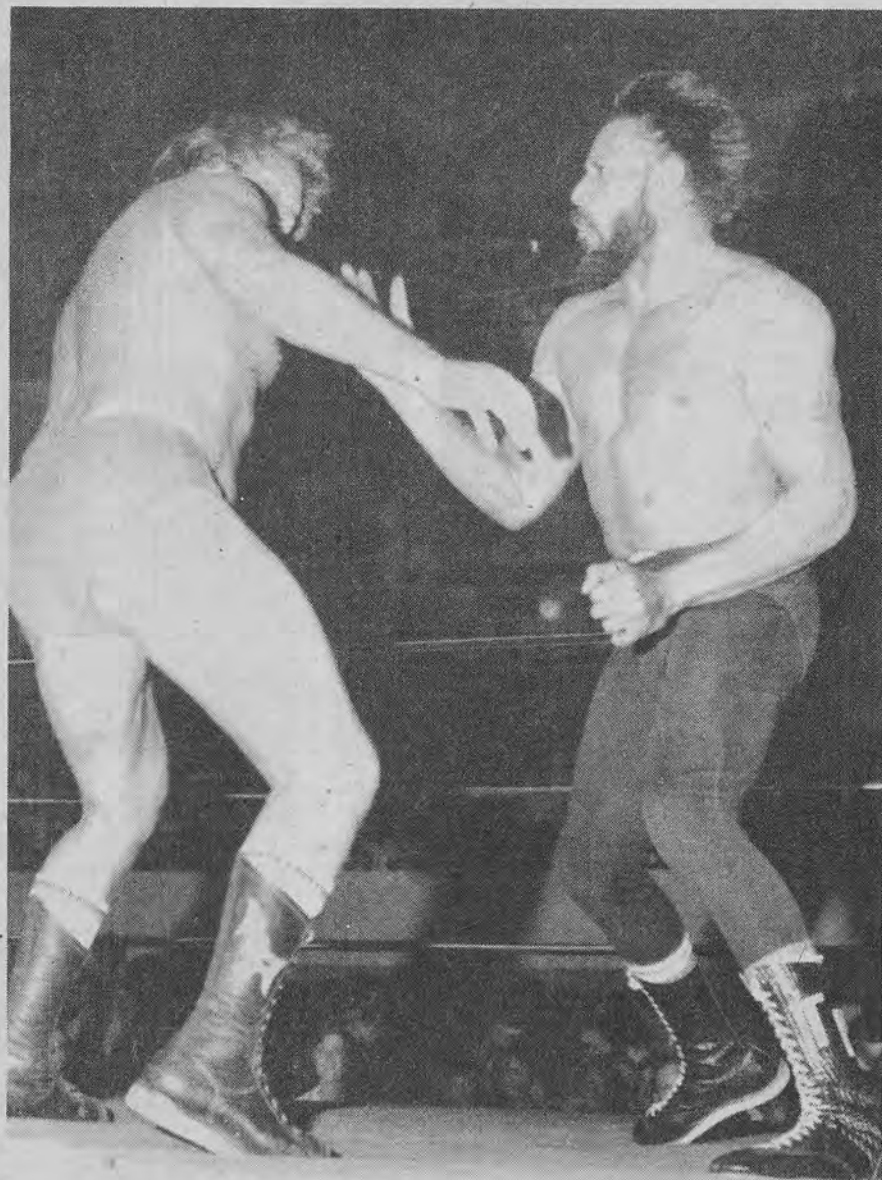


Here's another shot from the action-packed encounter between Lars Anderson and Thunderbolt Patterson with Patterson grabbing the rope to keep from going down after colliding with Anderson.

GORDON'S SEMS GRAPPLIN'



A popular performer wherever he appears is Tim (Mr. Wrestling) Woods who acknowledges the cheers of the fans as he is introduced prior to a match.



Lars Anderson is staggered after taking a karate chop from Thunderbolt Patterson (right).

Tommy Rich (right) and Sergeant Jacques Goulet engage in a toe-to-toe slugfest during their Marietta, Ga., match.





◀ The battling blonde Vivian St. John gets a piggy back ride from her opponent Leilani Kai. However, the ride didn't last long as Leilani soon unseated Vivian.

Note the pained expression on the face of Baron Von Raschke as Ricky Steamboat works over his arm.



The camera catches Betty Scott with her tongue out, but with good reason as she fights back the pain while Brenda Scott works on a wicked wrist and armlock.

GORDON'S FEMININE GRAPPLIN'



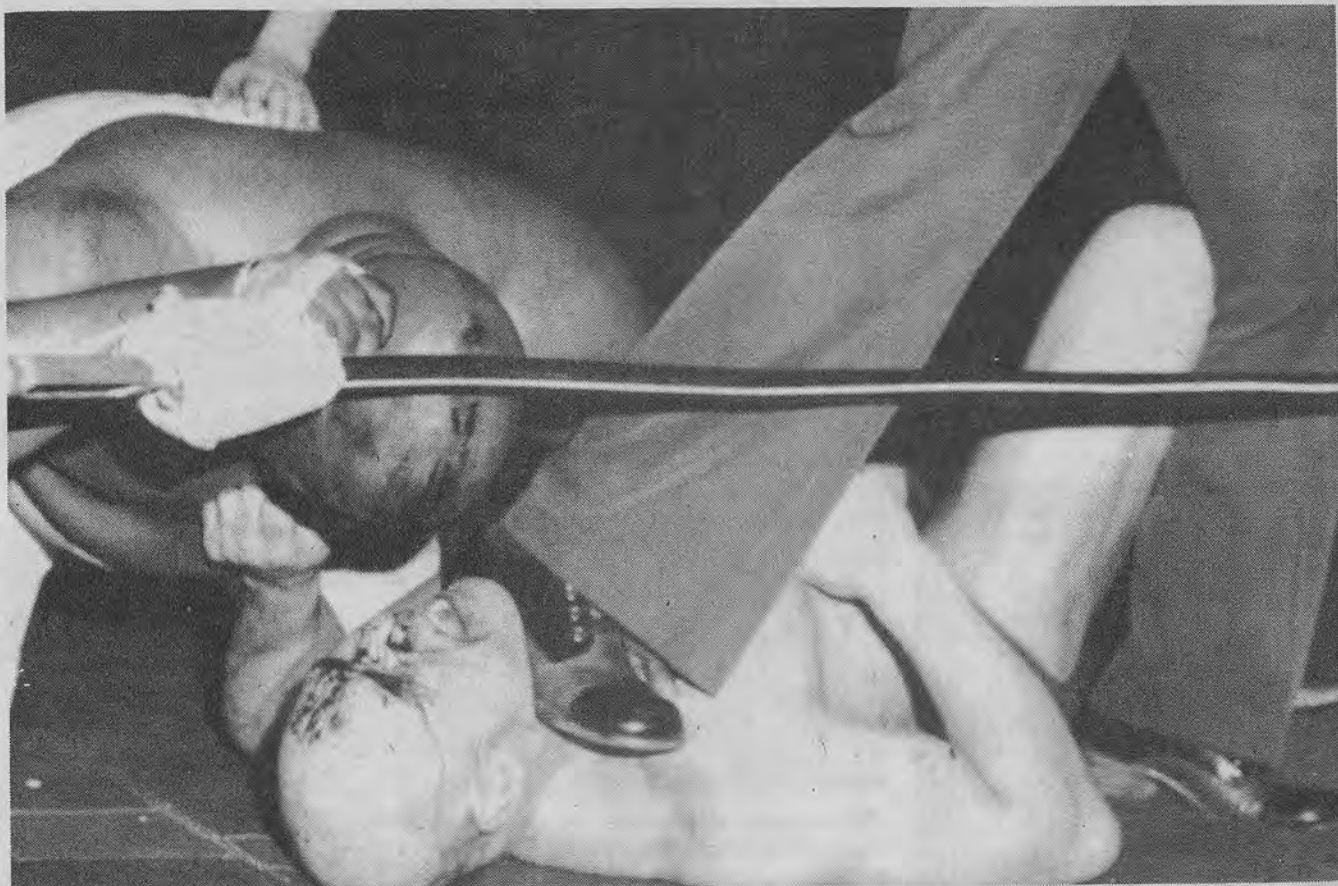
The long-time queen of the grappling game, Fabulous Moolah poses for a picture at her South Carolina estate.



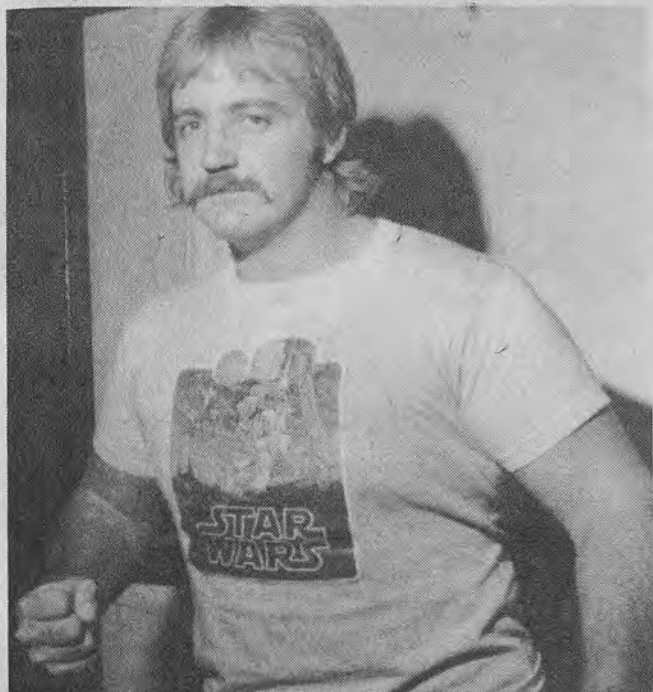
If you weren't a wrestling fan, you probably wouldn't recognize this blonde beauty as Joyce Grable a top-notch girl grappler who is a true Georgia belle.



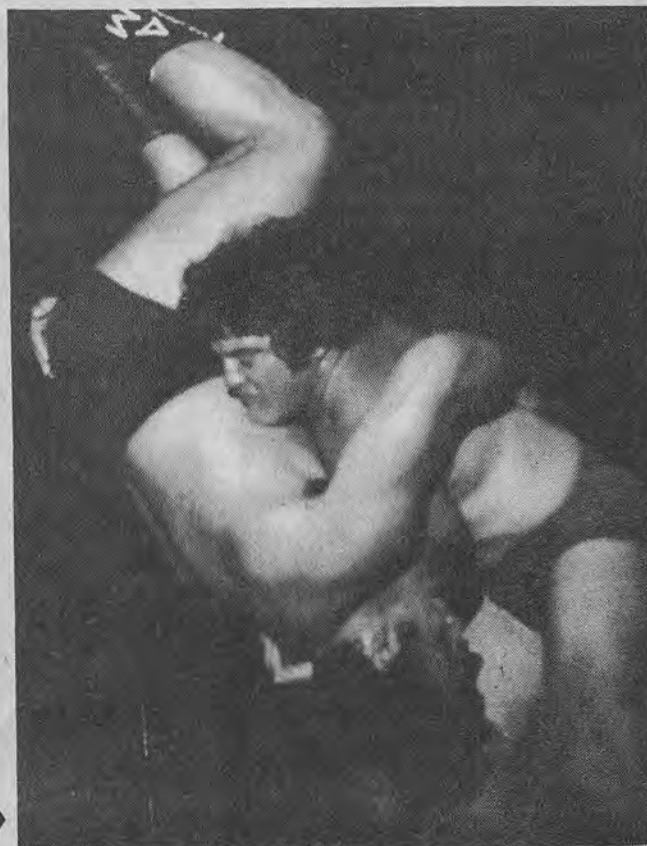
Thunderbolt Patterson forces Stan Hansen to his knees as he twists Hansen's arm.



The Mongolian Stomper gets a taste of his own medicine as Abdullah The Butcher holds him down and Abdullah's manager Gary Hart stomps on the Stomper's throat.

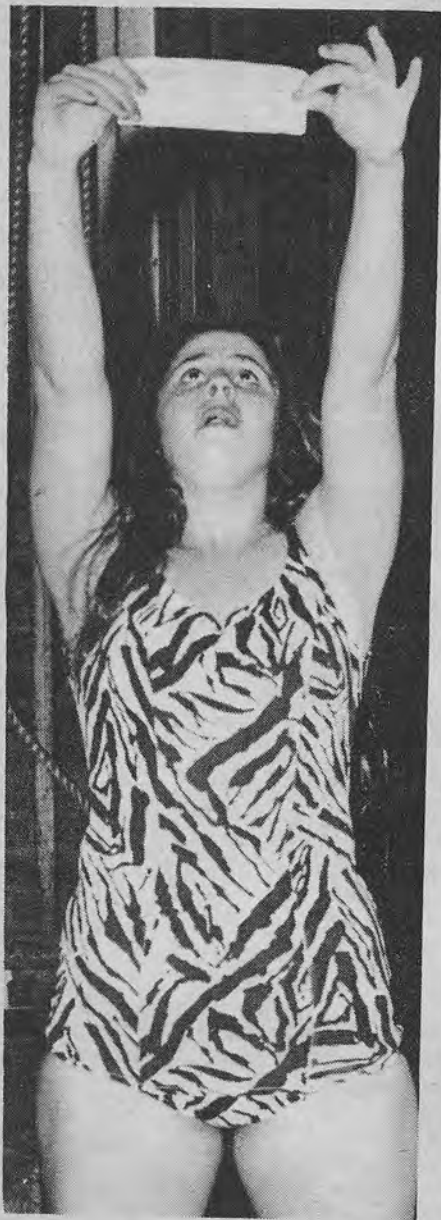


Wrestler Butch Malone poses for a picture in the dressing room before getting ready for another night of wrestling action in Georgia.

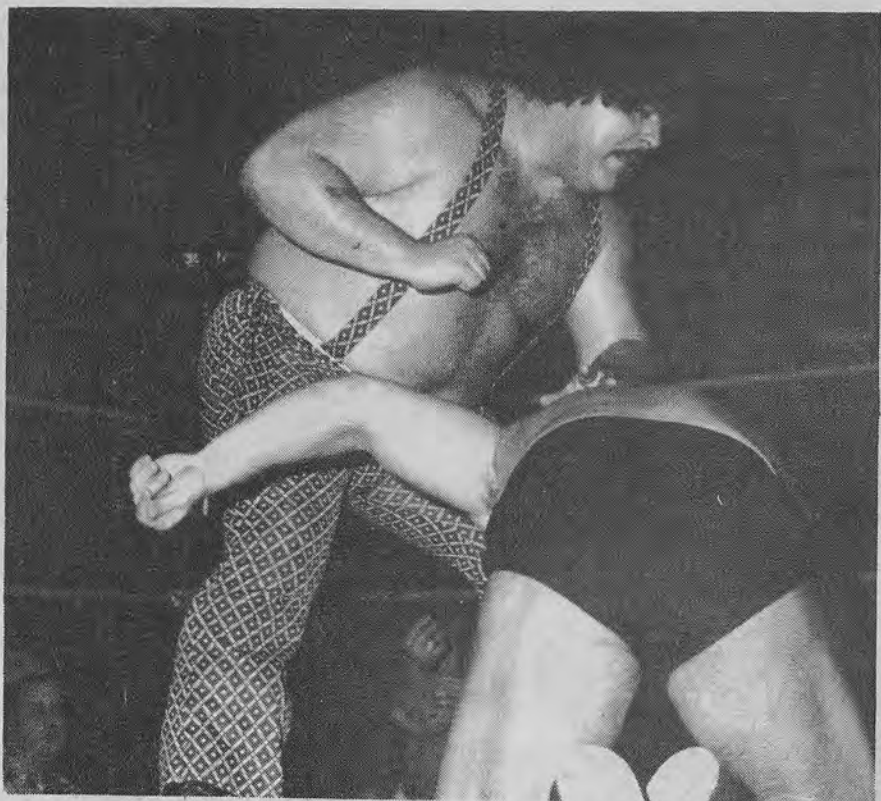


Here's a perfect example of a bodyslam with Paul Jones throwing mat meanie Angelo Mosca to the canvas.

ORDON'S GRAPPLIN' SEMS



Pepper LaBianco can't believe she has won top money in a recent battle royal.



Buzz Sawyer stands over his fallen foe Nick DeCarlo after sending him to the mat with a two-fisted assault.



Jeannie Harrell has the upper hand here as she clamps a headlock on Sandy Partlow.



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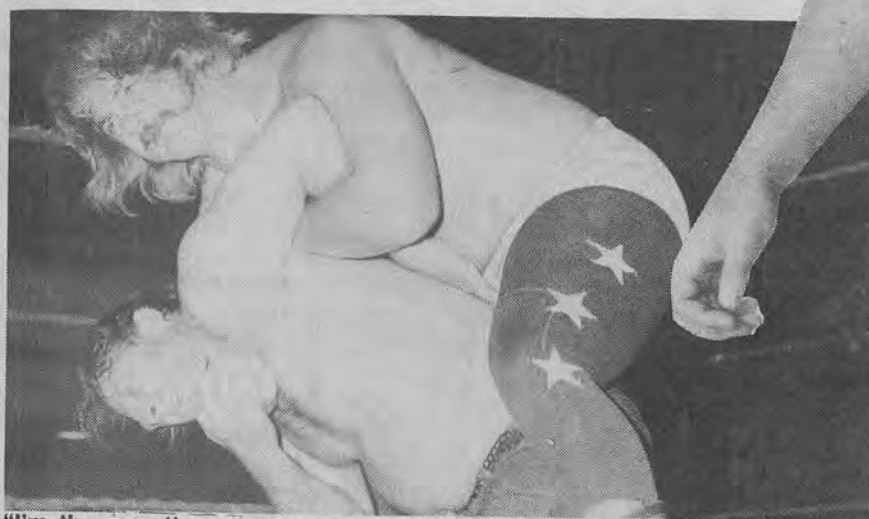
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THE NIGHT SUPERSTAR BOASTED ABOUT A LOSS

By G.J. ROWELL



"I'm the one, the only, the greatest, sensational, brilliant, spectacular wrestling Superstar," boasts Superstar Bill Malone.

I found Superstar Bill Malone's jubilant mood to be very strange, considering he had just been defeated in the semi-main event of the evening at the Pensacola Auditorium in downtown Pensacola, Florida.

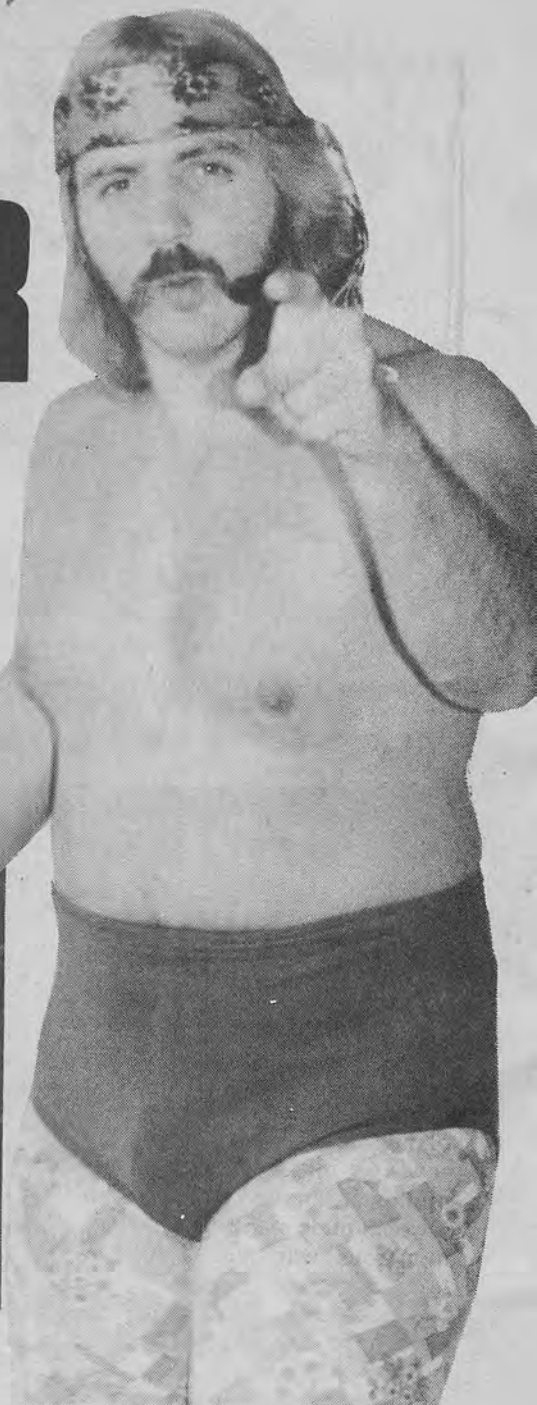
"Set 'em up for all my friends!" exclaimed Superstar Bill Malone as we entered Pensacola's famous Trader Jon's nightclub. Shouts of "How'd it go tonight, Superstar?" rang out from all corners of the bar as people rushed over to give the brawny wrestler the ol' glad hand and slap him on the back. The topless dancers

Superstar Bill Malone has Cowboy Bob Kelly all but hogtied with this combination armlock and chinlock.

even stopped gyrating in midstride, and flashed their smiles and bodies at the hero of the hour — Superstar Bill Malone!

"It went just great!" shouted the Superstar, "Cowboy Bob Kelly finally beat me!" Whistles, shouts and roars of approval filled the air as the nightclub patrons raised their glasses to toast the sequin-suited Superstar.

I found the actions of the Superstar and his Florida friends quite puzzling. Here was a professional wrestler who, by his



own admission, had just been defeated in the semi-main event of the evening. Yet, here he was in a spited mood, celebrating and drinking with fans and friends. It was truly a point to ponder. Very strange indeed. Wrestlers always boast about their wins — not their losses!

The Superstar and I made our way to the long wooden bar and plopped ourselves down in a couple of Trader Jon's unique chairs. They were metal and leather barbershop chairs that Trader Jon had swapped and bartered for.



Cowboy Bob Kelly's attempt to escape from this hold is thwarted by Superstar Bill Malone grabbing his hair.

As ol' Trader Jon himself set us up with a couple of ice-cold beers, I took the time to survey the scene before, behind and all around me. The nightclub decor led me to conjure up thoughts of the South Pacific and World War II. Military relics, photographs and paraphernalia adorned the walls and ceiling. Items such as a human skull, rope nets, a mock-up jet pilot trainer, model planes, a table made from an old sewing machine, autographed photos of famous celebrities, a large satirical nude painting of 'Rosie' and numerous war memorabilia filled every nook and cranny.

Trader Jon himself looked as though he had just stepped off a tropical isle as he slowly shuffled about in his khaki shorts and knee socks consisting of two different colors (legend has it that Trader Jon has never worn matching socks and if anyone can catch him in the act of wearing socks that match, the drinks will be "on the house").

I silently sipped my beer and watched as one of the lovely strippers came over to whisper in the Superstar's ear. A hint of perfume lingered in the air as she quickly excused herself and returned to the stage to finish her performance.

All the while that I sat and sipped my beer I wondered why the

Superstar would boast of losing his match. Finally, my curiosity could no longer be contained, so I asked the Superstar why he was so happy being defeated by Cowboy Bob Kelly. I was totally unprepared for the tirade that followed!

"Look, stud, you know as well as I that Cowboy Bob Kelly is all washed up! He's a hasbeen — a nobody! He's over the hill that he's never seen the top of! Ask any of the wrestlers in



Superstar Bill Malone poses for a picture with a few of his fans prior to leaving for his next stop on the wrestling circuit.

this territory — Mike The Alaskan York, General Homer O'Dell, The Saint, The English Bulldogs — they'll all tell you that he's all washed up! The only ones who think any differently are those moron wrestling fans!

"I'll tell you why I'm so happy being defeated by that poor man's John Wayne. I have information from a good source that proves Cowboy Bob Kelly paid off the referee for a fast count. That's right — a fast count!"

The Superstar's voice grew louder and louder, angrier and angrier, until he was shouting at the top of his lungs! "You know I was cheated tonight! But, that win didn't come cheap for that ol' man! He paid through the nose — \$1,000. He paid the referee \$1,000 to raise his stinkin' hand in victory!"

"You saw me tonight! You saw how great I was! You saw that Kelly applied his famous Bulldog Headlock on me — not once, but twice! And you saw me get up BOTH times! I could have taken as many of those Bulldog Headlocks as that ol' man could have applied! I would have laughed in his face, then kicked his teeth in! But, that *#@! *#@! referee gave me the fast count!"

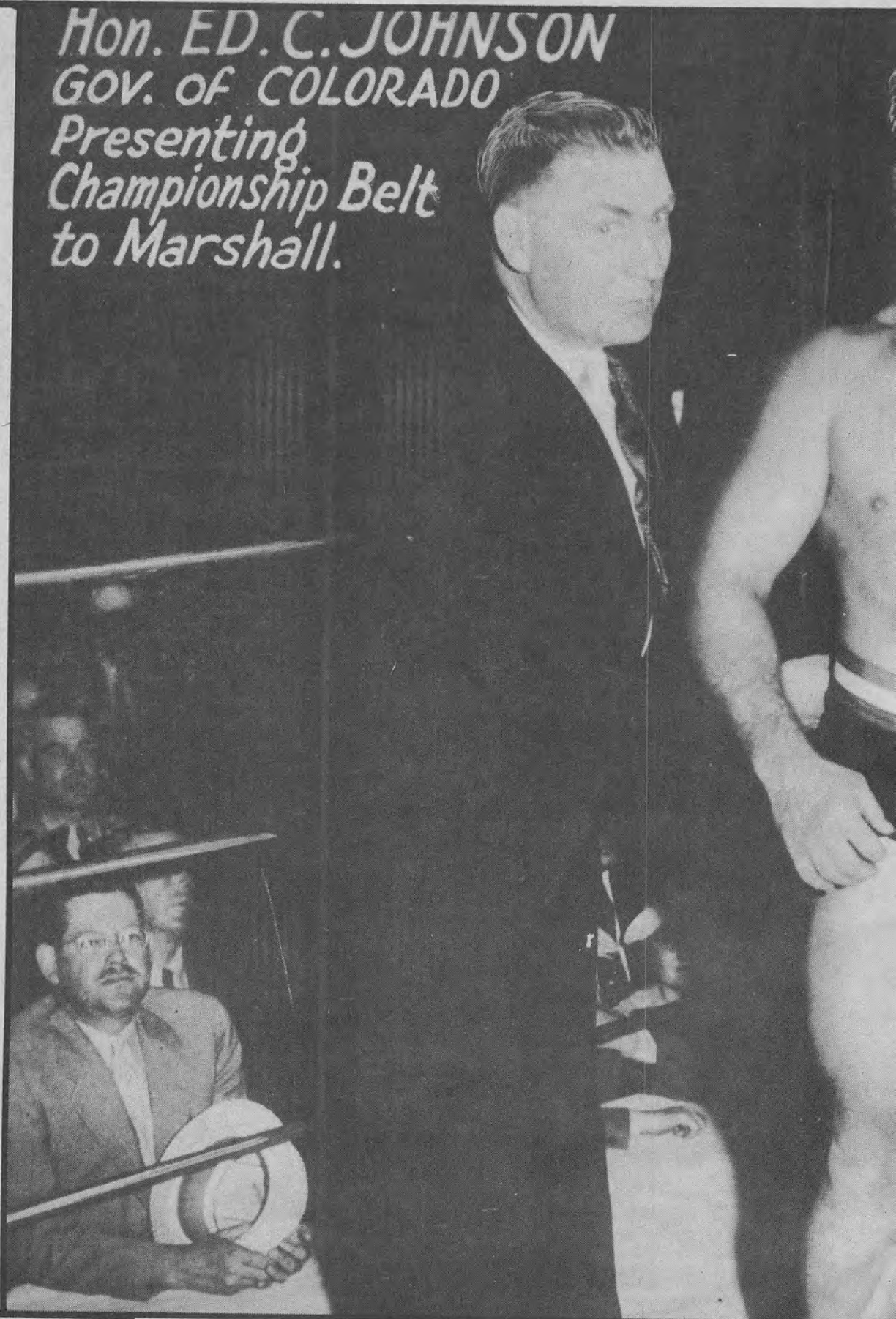
Enraged, the Superstar shouted at me, "How many other wrestlers have you ever seen get up after being Bulldogged by Cowboy Bob Kelly?! Huh?! How many?!"

I set my can of beer down, looked him squarely in the eyes and admitted to him that I had never seen any wrestler get up after the Bulldog Headlock had been applied. Let alone, see a wrestler get up after two of them had been applied.

"That's right! That's why I'm a Superstar! I'm thrilled that Cowboy Kelly paid \$1,000 to prove that I'm wrestling's greatest Superstar! And I promise you that ol' Cowboy Kelly is going to live to regret the day that he ever paid off a referee to break my undefeated winning streak! A thousand dollars, huh! I'll smash his face in a thousand times for that dirty trick! You can bet that he'll live long enough to regret that he ever heard of the one, the only, the greatest, sensational, brilliant, spectacular wrestling Superstar — **SUPERSTAR BILL MALONE!**"

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SHOULD THE SHEIK BE BANNED FROM WRESTLING?

The wide wonderful world of professional wrestling is full of thrilling, action-packed matches and colorful personalities. Due to the very nature of the sport, the wide wonderful world of professional wrestling is also full of controversy. And there are generally two sides to every controversy: a positive side and a negative side.

Oftentimes the average wrestling fan has a valid opinion on a

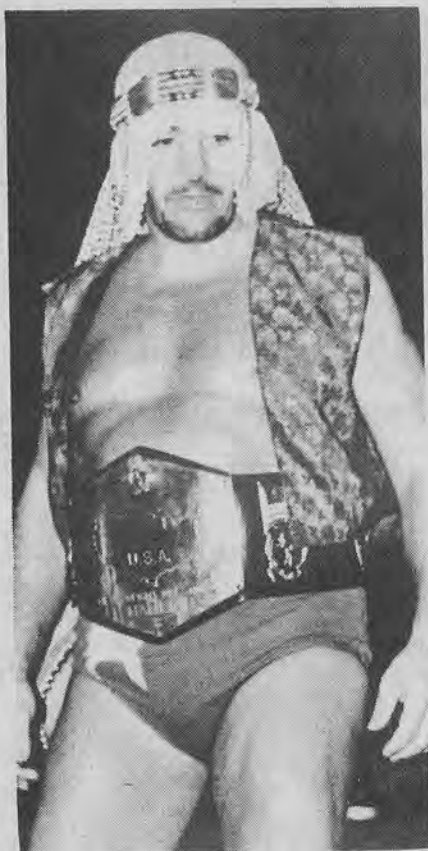
controversial wrestler, manager, hold, bout, etc. and would like to make his feelings known for the betterment of the sport. So, starting with this issue, we are going to give the wrestling fans of the world the chance to tell it like it is! You are going to be given the opportunity to vote YES or NO on controversial topics presented in the "Fans Forum". To make your opinion known, all you will have to do is send your

vote and any comments that you have on the subject to the address listed below. We will publish excerpts from the postcards or letters containing the most interesting comments on the topic currently being voted on.

Recently a poll was taken at Detroit's Cobo Arena and the fans were asked whether or not they thought that The Sheik should be banned from the sport of profes-

The Sheik winds up to fire a fist at the midsection of his opponent Mighty Igor.





The Sheik, one of the grappling game's vilest villains, sporting his United States wrestling championship belt.

nal wrestling. Here is a sample of what the fans had to say:

"Yes. The Sheik should definitely be banned from professional wrestling. He's a disgraceful, vicious animal that loves to bite into other wrestlers' faces and then spit out the flesh and the blood!"

R.K.B. Saginaw, Michigan

"No. I just love it when The Sheik shows these goodie, goodie wrestlers like Lord Layton no mercy. If they can't defend themselves, they shouldn't cry about losing to someone as great as The Sheik!"

T.J. Detroit, Michigan

What do the wrestling fans of the world have to say? Should The Sheik Be Banned From Wrestling?

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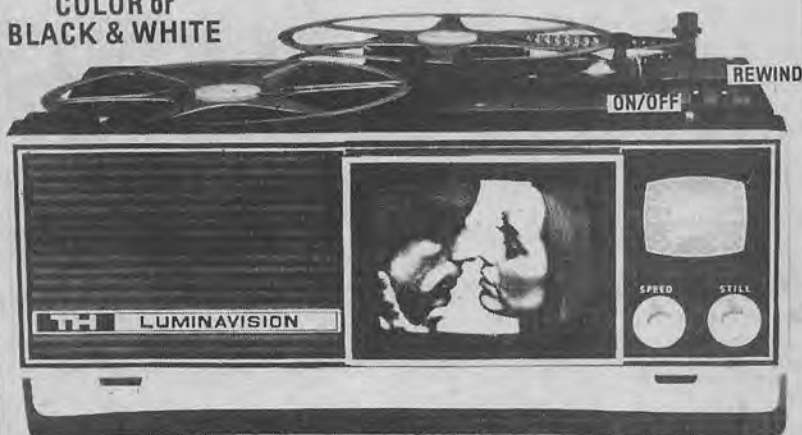
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MR. SAITO & MR. SATO

SPELL DOUBLE TROUBLE

By FRANK AMATO

Masao Hattori the small, thin manager of Mr. Massa Saito and Mr. Yoshino Sato stood in the dressing room, surrounded by the reporters of the various wrestling magazines. Saito and Sato sat on each side of their manager. The reporters had their tape recorders and pads in readiness. Masao Hattori had called this press conference and the reporters awaited anxiously for whatever news or statement the wily manager would bring forth.

Saito and Sato sat rigidly in their seats, arms folded with that blank expression on their faces the Orientals are noted for. Not so Masao Hattori though. His expression was one of intent and a thin, evil-type smile crossed his lips. Hattori held up his hands and was ready to speak.

"Gentlemen of the press I thank you for coming. I know you all are anxious to hear what I am about to announce. My champions, and great champions they are, have accomplished recently what we have been striving for these many months. If you have not heard by now I will enlighten you. Just a few days ago Saito and Sato finally and decisively defeated Mike Graham and Steve Keirn for the United States tag-team championship!"

Saito and Sato both grunted and nodded their heads almost in unison. Masao Hattori smiled, "By defeating Keirn and Graham we have gained a truly most important title. This title was denied us previously because Keirn and Graham refused to wrestle my champions ever since they won the title. Only by threat of court action did we get a title match.

"This is the second step in my quest. First Saito and Sato won the Florida tag-team title from Jack and Jerry Brisco. That was step number one. The U.S. belts were number two. We have reached that pinnacle.

"Now for my reason for calling you here. I and my honorable champions are telling the rest of all wrestling tag teams and especially the champions of various tag titles we will seek you out and destroy you, one by one until we have won every major tag-team title in professional wrestling!"

The reporters looked around the dressing room, they all had heard the statement and all looked disbelievingly at each other. Masao Hattori realized the impact he had made. He once again smiled, "This is no idle threat, I assure you

gentlemen. I have had this plan in my mind for well over a year. I waited for the right moment to announce this plan. The defeat of Keirn and Graham for the belts was the key to open the door.

"I believe Massa Saito and Yoshino Sato are the best tag-team in all of wrestling. The record speaks for them. In Japan they are revered by all. All over the world they have won titles and honors. No other team has the repertoire of holds and manoeuvres their martial arts are second to none. No other team have the devotion and drive to win like my champions.

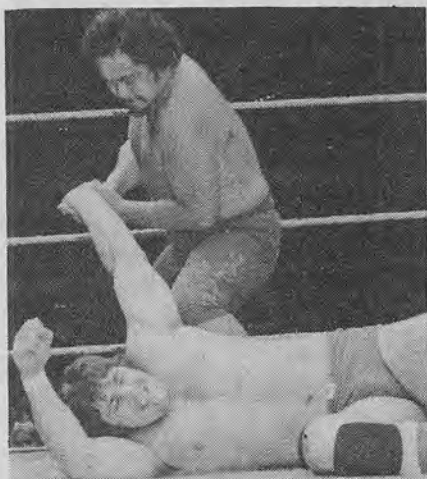


Yoshino Sato (left) and Massa Saito are a rough, tough tag-team twosome, who could spell trouble for any of the current champions.

"My champions have one thing going for them no other team has. They have the best wrestling mind behind them in Masao Hattori. I am a genius and I say this without reservation. In Japan they call me a genius and they are people who do not bestow accolades easily."

"I know the quest will not be easy. There will be tag-teams who will shun us. They fear they will lose. They have this right because we are better. There will be teams who will be reluctant to wrestle us but their honor and pride will force them to wrestle. My plan will take time but the end result will be total victory!"

Massa Saito stood up and glared out at the reporters, "The time has come when Sato and Saito show all



Dino Bravo fights back the pain as Yoshino Sato works on his wrist.

the world that Japanese wrestlers are the very best. Masao Hattori will become the greatest manager in wrestling for all time when we complete this plan. There are many managers who think they are the best but they kid themselves and you reporters. With the guidance of our honorable manager Sato and Saito have taken over Florida. With his plan we will take over America!"

Yoshino Sato then stood up as Saito sat down. He said, "The invasion will start soon. First we will defeat all competition here in Florida and the south. Then we will travel this great country and give wrestling fans the best team for the money. We will defeat their favorites like we did Gragam and Keirn."

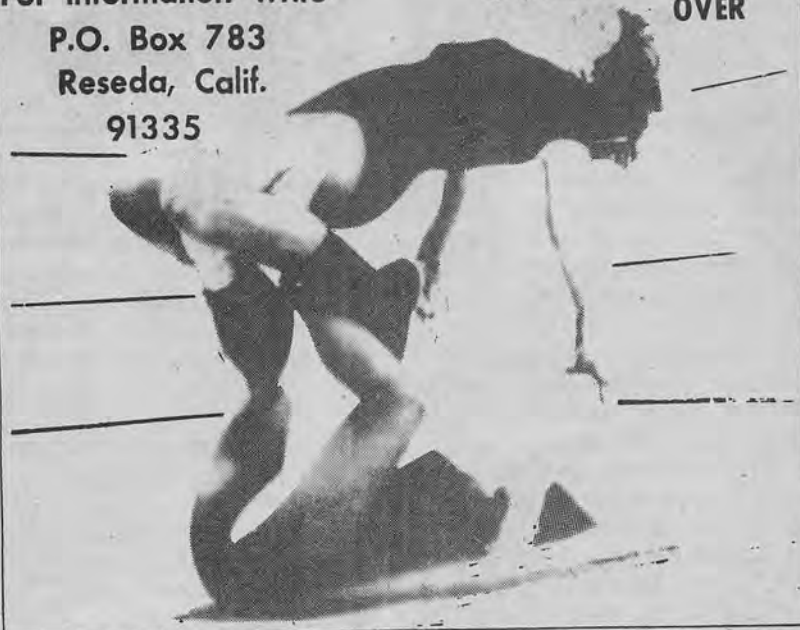
Both Massa Saito and Yoshino Sato are ringwise veterans who have traveled the globe, winning various titles along the way both as singles

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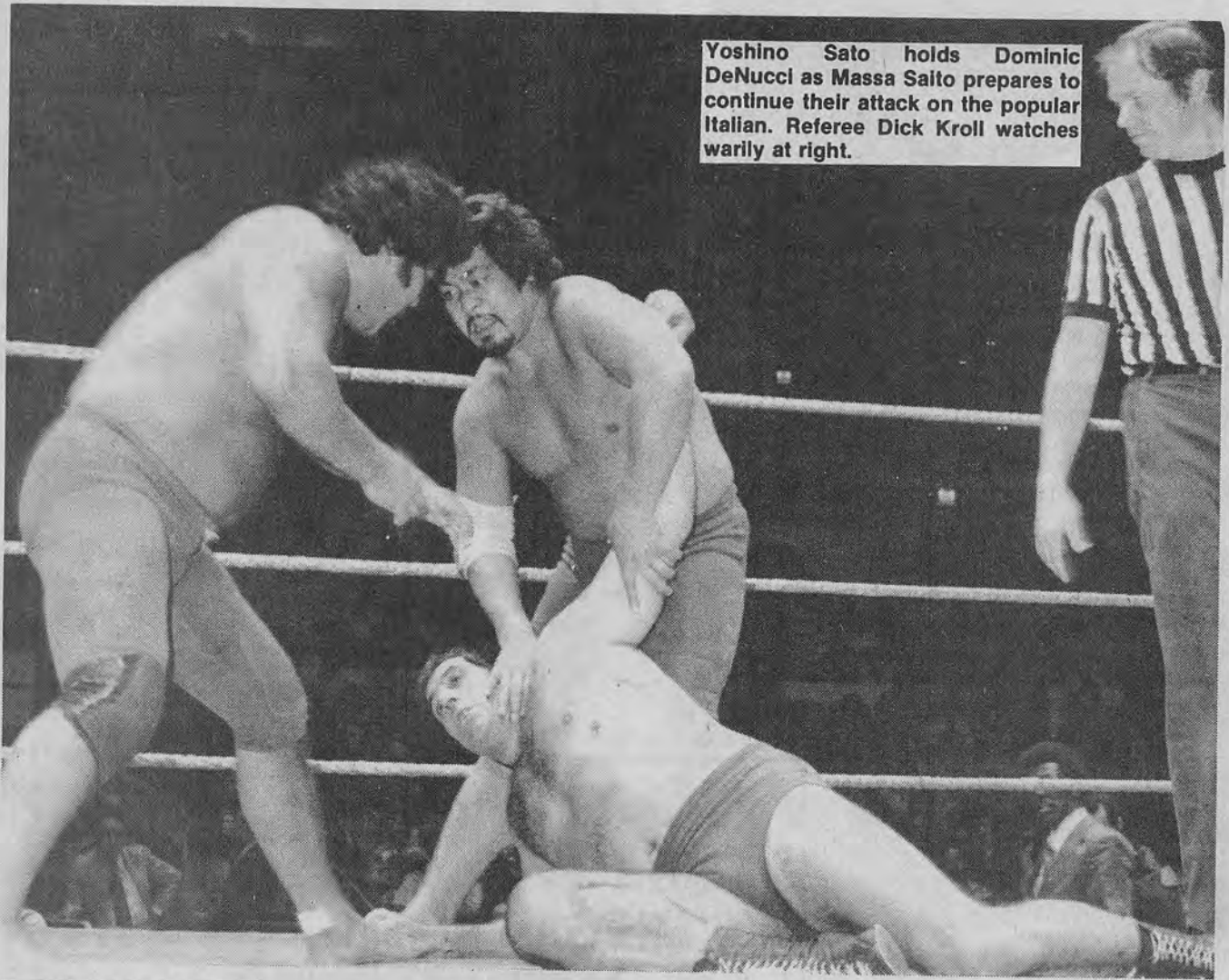


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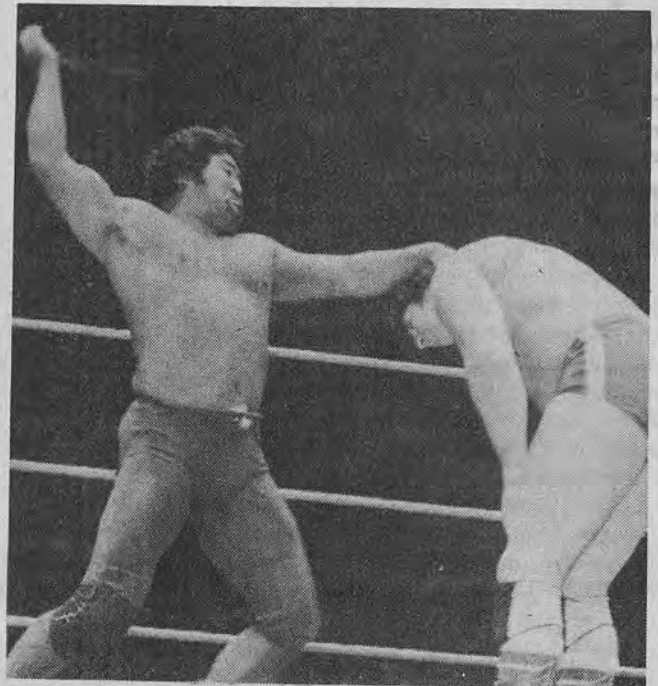
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Yoshino Sato holds Dominic DeNucci as Massa Saito prepares to continue their attack on the popular Italian. Referee Dick Kroll watches warily at right.



Here's an example of Yoshino Sato and Massa Saito's teamwork. Saito holds the opponent while Sato prepares to leap off the ring rope with a flying, two-handed karate chop to the back.



A martial arts expert, Massa Saito prepares deie, aete chop to his opponent's neck.



While Sato holds the opponent, Massa Saito is about to leap off the rope and deliver a karate chop to their foe's back.

and tag-team wrestlers. Saito is better known to wrestling fans having campaigned here much longer. Back in the 1960. Saito formed a very successful team with Kinji Shibuya.

Along with Shibuya they dominated the West Coast, winning the Americas tag-team championship at least twice. Saito held the Americas championship as well as the Pacific Coast championship, and with Shibuya the Pacific Coast tag-team championship. Saito has teamed successfully with Mr. Fuji as well at various times. Until teaming with Sato, Saito held the Florida State tag-team championship three times with Ivan Koloff.

Yoshino Sato the lesser known grappler from Japan has also campaigned here in the States at various times. Several years back when he first ventured from Japan, Sato used the name of Takachio and did very well in California. In fact, at that time he wrestled by the rules.

Later he teamed with Mitsu Arakawa in the Mid-West and held the National Wrestling Association version of the world tag title, using his real name Yoshino Sato.

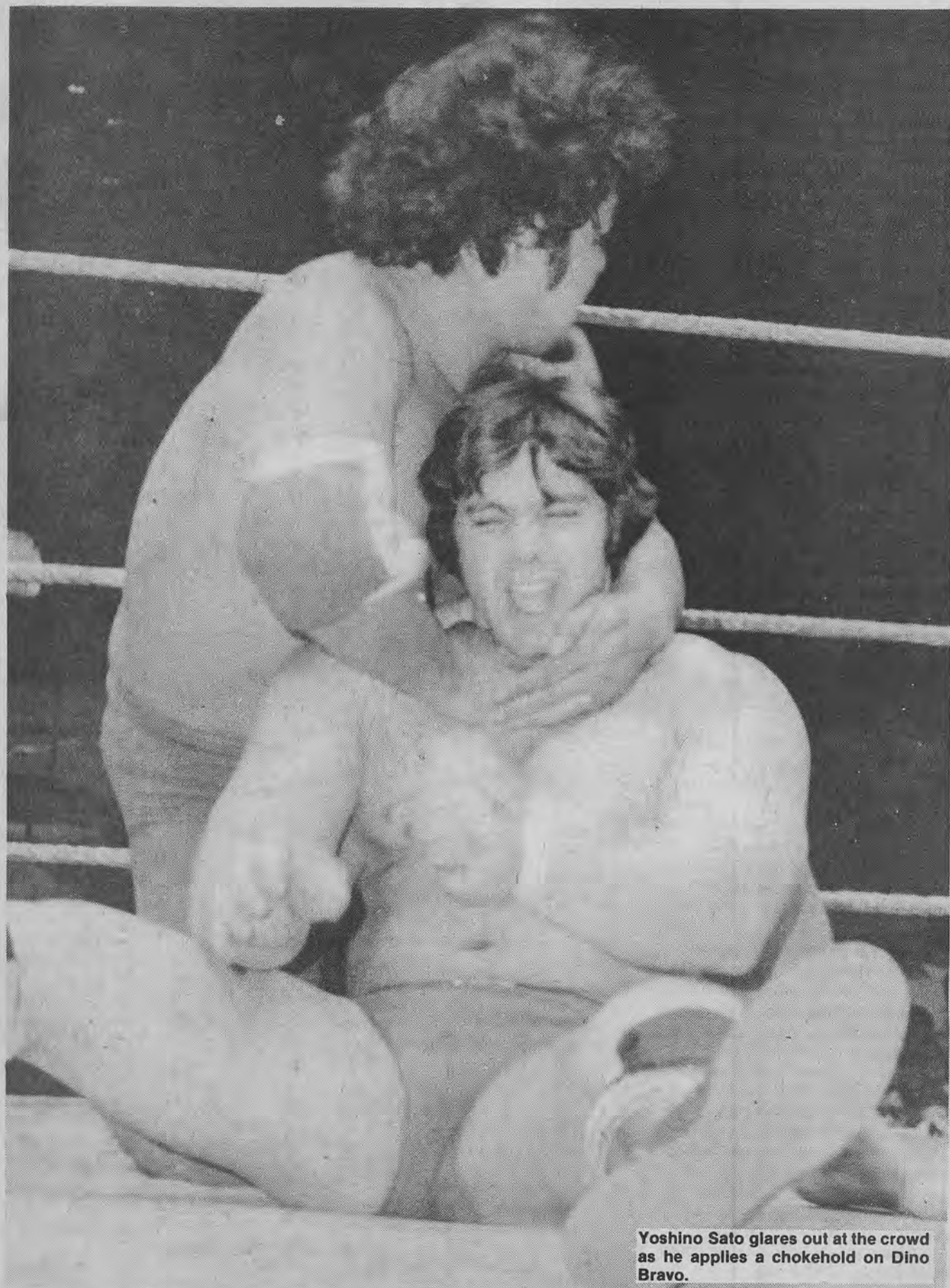
Sato was asked why he changed from good guy to rulebreaker and he answered, "The fans never let me forget about Pearl Harbor. It was ridiculous because I wasn't born then but Japanese is all the fans saw. They cheered me but they never really accepted me. I saw other great Japanese wrestlers making big money and not caring about the fans. Like Saito, Mr. Fuji, Professor Tanaka; Tor Kamata, Kinji Shibuya, Tosh Togo and Mitsu Arakawa. I decided to join the money line."

When asked how he got Saito and Sato together Hattori replied, "I was already managing Saito with Koloff but Koloff was suspended as you may recall. Saito remembered Sato was in Japan and they had teamed before. I contacted Sato and he was very interested."

After the press conference had been held, various wrestling managers across the country were asked, their reactions to what Hattori was planning and his statement of being the best manager in wrestling. Here is what they had to say.

Grand Wizard: — "He has taken upon himself a tall order. True he has a great team and they should go far. Still I manage a great team in Superstar and Crazy Luke Graham. I put my money on my Grahams. Also I'm the best manager in wrestling and Captain Lou Albano backs me on this."

Captain Lou Albano: — "If Hattori thinks Saito and Sato can defeat my Yukon Lumberjacks he has rice on the brain. I've managed six teams to the World Wide Wrestling federation tag-team title and I know something about managing. I don't think Saito and Sato can do it all."



Yoshino Sato glares out at the crowd as he applies a chokehold on Dino Bravo.

Gary Hart: — Masao Hattori has gone beserk. What he proposes is insane. I can think of several teams in wrestling who can beat his team. Wait until he gets to Texas."

Bobby Heenan: — I'm the best manager in wrestling and my record proves me out. For the last eight years I've managed three teams to the American Wrestling Association tag-team championship, and I also have Nick Bockwinkel, the AWA champion. Hattori's record doesn't compare. Saito and Sato will fail here in the AWA."

Fred Blasse: — "I have the greatest respect for the Oriental mind. I have managed Japanese wrestlers and I know what they can accomplish. Still what Hattori has undertaken is too gigantic to succeed. Here in the WWF there are many great teams and Saito and Sato can't beat them all."

Some tag teams across the country were asked about Hattori's plan for total conquest. Here is what they answered:

Dino Bravo and Dominic DeNucci: — We have beaten Saito and Sato. Already they know we are better; they are good but not great."

Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell: — "We are more than willing to risk the AWA belts against Saito and Sato. Let them come but when they leave we still will be enjoying our title reign."

Chavo and Hector Guerrero: — We don't sell Saito and Sato short. We have kept an eye on their progress and they are an excellent team. They may give us trouble but we will defeat them."

Greg Valentine and Ric Flair: — "Who do these slant-eyed runts think they are? We'll even let Hattori wrestle with them and will send them back to Japan or wherever they feel like going."

Masao Hattori along with his successful team of Masa Saito and Yoshino Sato have their work cut out for them. The world of wrestling awaits them. If they should succeed they will have accomplished what no team has ever done. If they fail they may have ruined themselves forever. First they have the U.S. title to worry about and that is a job in itself. Right, Masao Hattori?

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Good luck to each and every one of you!

The questions for this month's 'Pro Wrestling Classics' quiz were suggested by 'The Female Gorgeous George' of wrestling — I Lovely Louise.

1. Who did Nick Bockwinkel win the American Wrestling Association championship from — Ray Stevens or Verne Gagne?

2. Colonel Homer O'Dell managed the tag team of Rip Hawk and Hanson.

3. Mary Kostecki is the real name of which female grappler — (a)

By G. J. ROWELL

Fabulous Moolah (b) Penny Banner (c) Lovely Louise.

4. Which of the following held the World Wrestling Association heavyweight championship — (a) Baron Von Raschke (b) Cowboy Bob Ellis (c) Ox Baker.

5. Name the three Vachon brothers and their sister.

6. Who played the title role of 'Mad Bull' in the CBS made-for television movie of the same name? Alc

7. What is Brute Bernard's real first name?

8. True or False — Superstar Graham and Superstar Malone are one and the same wrestler.

9. Who wrestled as the masked Star Warrior? Bob Roop

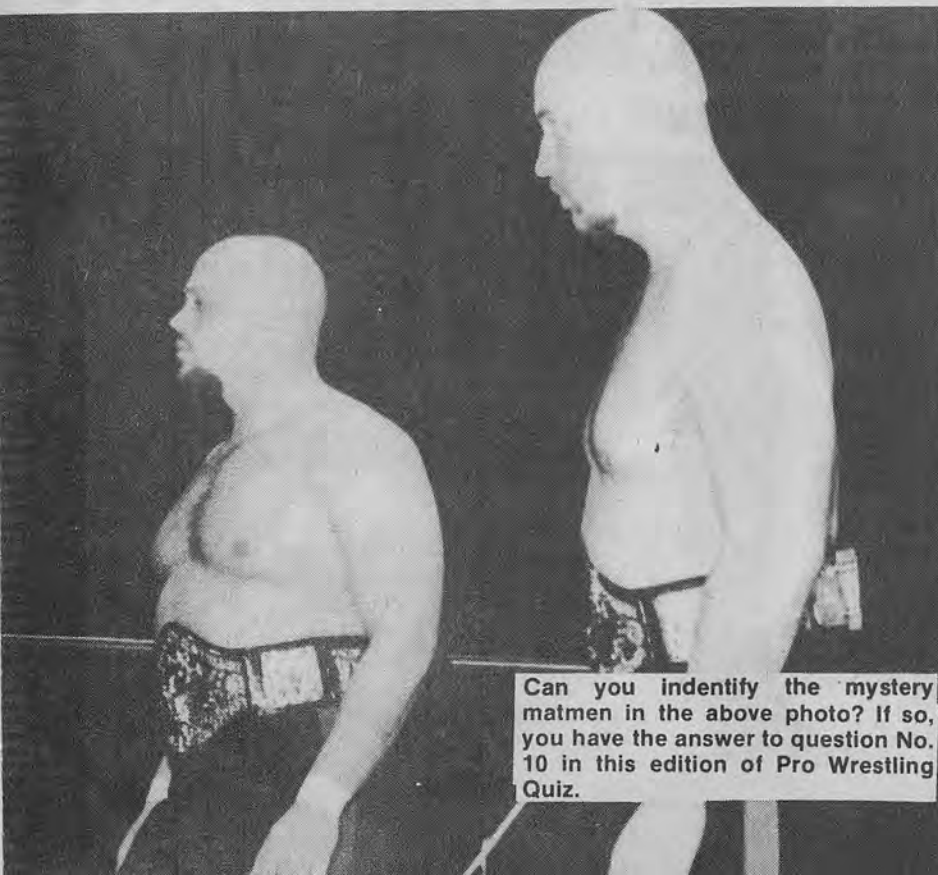
10. Name both of the mystery wrestlers featured below, right.

If you can identify the gentleman on the left, who has the chain wrapped around Bull Ramos' neck, then you'll have the answer to question No. 6. Count Billy Varga Played the part of the referee in the movie "Mad Bull".



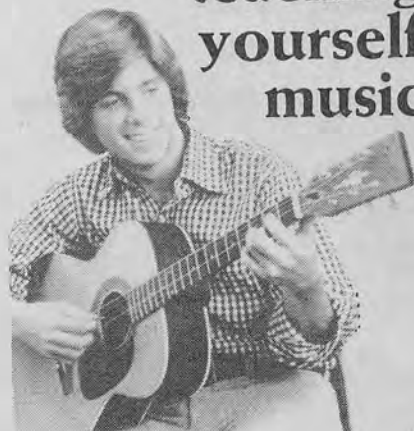


Lovely Louise, the female Gorgeous George, suggested some of the questions for the second edition of Pro Wrestling Quiz.



Can you identify the mystery matmen in the above photo? If so, you have the answer to question No. 10 in this edition of Pro Wrestling Quiz.

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American humorist Will Rogers once said, "I've never met a man I didn't like." Fortunately, for Rogers, he never had the pleasure — or should it be displeasure? — of making the acquaintance of those Teuton terrors, Karl and Kurt Von Steiger. If he had, he wouldn't have made the above statement.

Wrestling Monthly reporter-photographer Larry Barnhizer had the rather unpleasant task of trying to get an interview with the Von Steigers, but managed to come up with some interesting comments from the dastardly duo.

One thing is certain, neither Karl nor Kurt will ever work for the Northern California Chamber of Commerce.

"We don't like Northern California, both the people and the climate are terrible. Before coming here some seven months ago, my brother Kurt and I were able to



"WE'RE THE WORLD'S GREATEST TAG TEAM," BOAST KARL & KURT VON STEIGER

By LARRY BARNHIZER

bench-press 400-410 pounds. Now, we are lucky to make 300 pounds and we blame it on the California climate," snapped Karl.

If they dislike California so, why then did the Germans venture here?

"It's very simple, we like competition. In fact, we thrive on competition," interjected Kurt.

Like many of the mat meanies, the Von Steigers are rather reluctant to discuss their personal life, but reporter Barnhizer managed to get a few rather curt replies from the German brothers.

"What part of Germany are you from?"

"My brother Kurt and I were



Karl Von Steiger has Pepper Gomez in a front chinlock which is almost certain to become a choke hold when the referee's attention is diverted.

raised in Hamburg, Germany. We grew up loving most sports. In fact, there was a large gymnasium in Hamburg where we trained with weights and did most of our amateur wrestling," stated Karl.

"Do your parents still live in Germany?"

"Our parents are semi-retired. We own a nice bar in Hamburg, and we have other brothers and sisters living there as well," replied Kurt.

"Any other wrestlers in the family?"

"No," retorted Karl.

"Are you both married?"

"Yes, we are both married to American women," replied Kurt.

"How long have you been wrestling professionally, and when did you first come to the United States?"

"We have been wrestling pro for 14 years," answered Karl. "We arrived in the United States in 1968."

"Do you have any hobbies?"

"My brother Karl and I lift weights three days a week to stay in shape and also do a lot of running because it's good for the lungs. We also enjoy swimming, but at the present time I guess a game of golf would be our favorite hobby," stated Kurt.

The Von Steigers have wrestled in almost every corner of the grappling globe — the United States, Canada, Hawaii, Japan, New Zealand and Australia — but didn't hesitate in naming their favorite port of call.

"That's easy," stated Karl, it's

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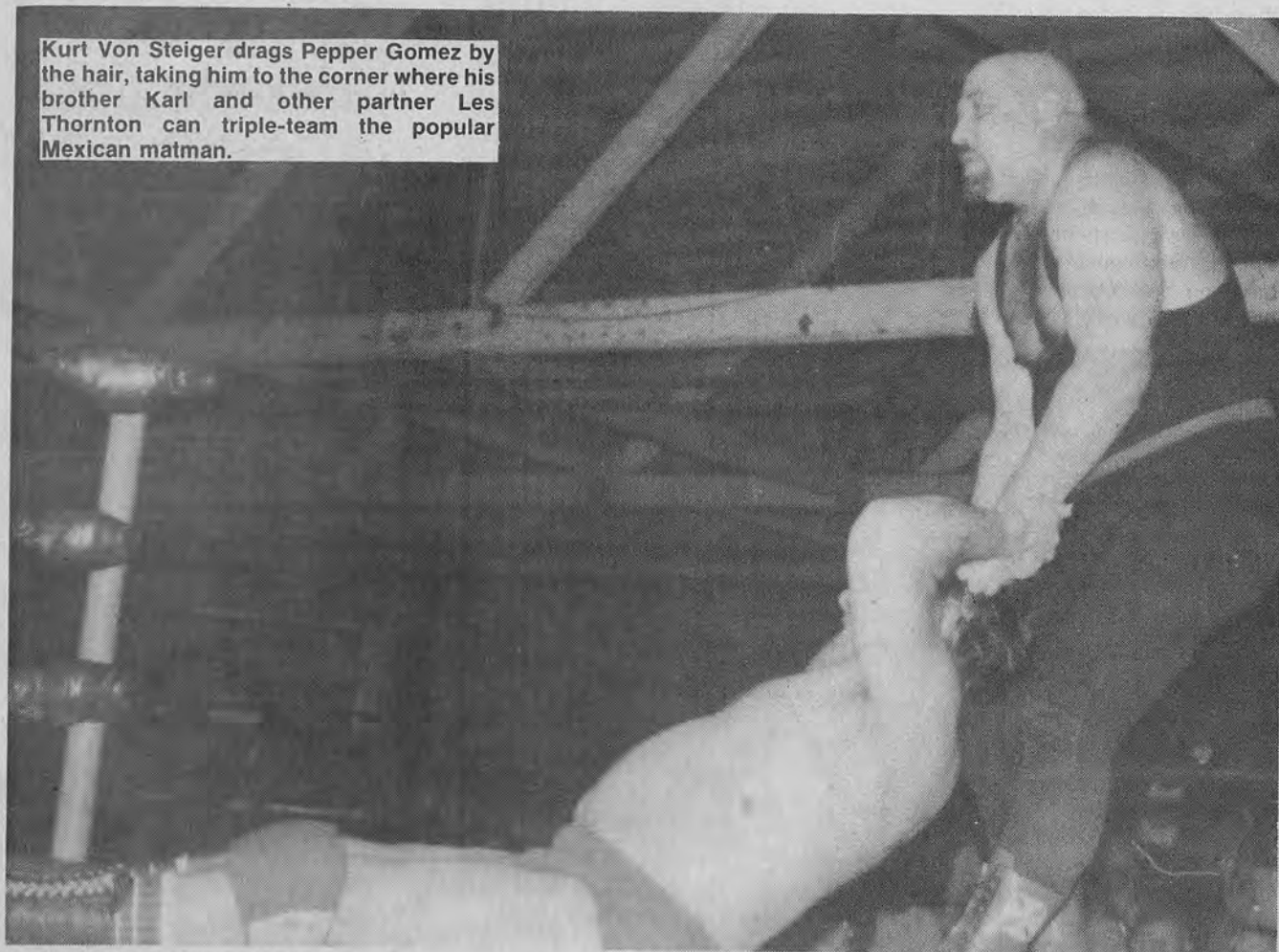


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The Von Steigers, Karl and Kurt, doubleteam Mando Guerrero while Les Thornton distracts the referee.



Kurt Von Steiger drags Pepper Gomez by the hair, taking him to the corner where his brother Karl and other partner Les Thornton can triple-team the popular Mexican matman.

Japan."

"Do you consider yourselves the best brother team to ever come out of Germany?"

"We are very happy to have such a great German heritage and there have been other great German wrestlers, but we are the best because we have been teaming together for so long. Of course, you realize German wrestlers are superior to Americans, there is no comparison," said Kurt.

"Have you ever had a manager?"

"In the past, we employed a manager and it helped us a lot when we first came to the United States, but we no longer use a manager as they take too much of a cut from our salary," explained Karl.

"Do you enjoy wrestling solo?"

"Only on occasion," replied Kurt curtly.

"How do you rate yourselves as a tag team?"

"That's a stupid question, we are by far the greatest tag team in the world," answered Karl.

"If you are the greatest tag team in the world, how do you explain losing your title awhile back to Ray Stevens and Moondog Mayne?"

"We just had an off night. As we said earlier, the climate in California has prevented us from going all out in our title defenses. That crazy Moondog Mayne and Stevens are tough, we give them credit for that, but they just had a lucky night. They have no real class and lacked the brains to keep the tag-team title.

That's why Kurt and I regained our world tag-team title within 30 days," retorted Karl.

"What's your excuse for dropping your title to Stevens and Kevin Sullivan last summer?"

"Another remark like that and I'll twist that skinny neck of yours off your shoulders" interjected Karl threateningly.

"Sullivan and Stevens used foreign objects on us that night, but luckily a National Wrestling Alliance representative was a ringside..."

"Wait a minute, I understand you two were also guilty of using foreign objects."

"No, that's not true," retorted Karl angrily.

"Then, why did the NWA place the title in escrow?"

"Mainly because that stupid American referee wasn't wearing his glasses. He should have had a seeing-eye dog in the ring with him."

"Gentlemen, the way I recall that match was both teams were disqualified for using foreign objects and the title held in escrow for 30 days after the NWA executive held a hearing with the referee and their representative."

"Barnhizer, we don't care what you might have heard. The NWA and referee were prejudiced against us from the start. They, along with most of the wrestling fans in California, are just jealous of our German superiority," snapped Karl.

"In the return match we defeated



Moondog Mayne comes to the rescue of Pepper Gomez as Kurt Von Steiger applies a chokehold and is about to deliver a right to Kurt's bald pate.

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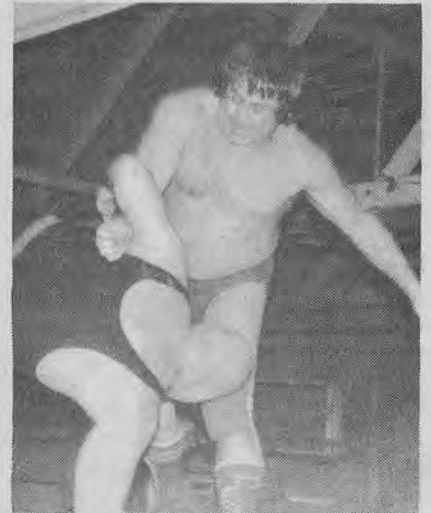
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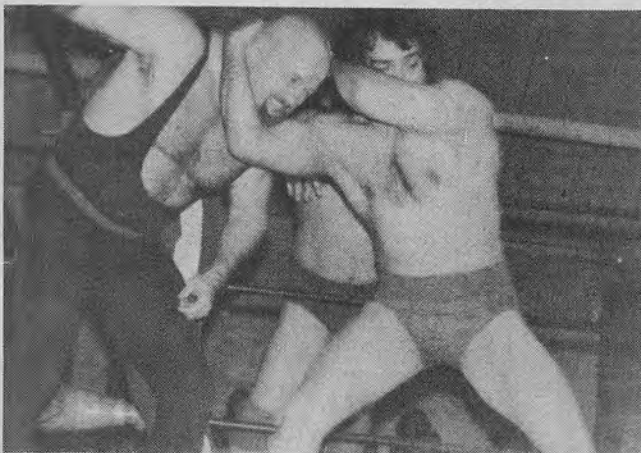
This spectacular shot shows Mando Guerrero scoring with a flying shoulder tackle on Karl Von Steiger.



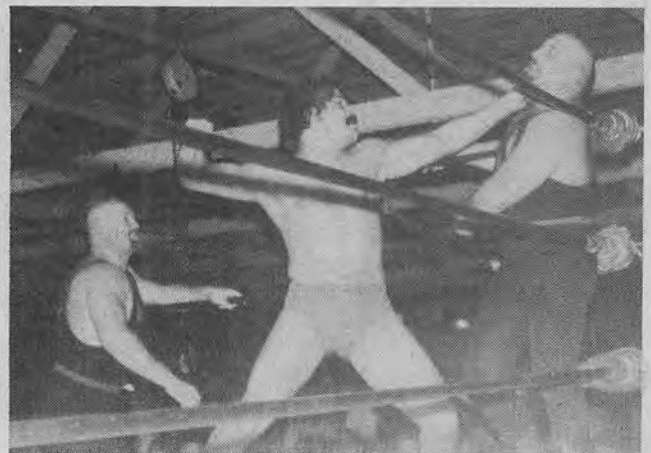
Karl Von Steiger puts his worst foot forward as he tries his best to leave his footprint on the throat of Mando Guerrero.



Karl Von Steiger latches on to the ring rope to try and keep Mando Guerrero from flipping him, but Von Steiger couldn't hold on and wound up flying across the ring.



Karl Von Steiger (left) is about to come to the rescue of brother Kurt, but he's too late to prevent Mando Guerrero from landing this haymaker.



Pepper Gomez turns travel agent as he gives Kurt Von Steiger a free trip across the ring courtesy of a flip.



Mando Guerrero's chin is about to become the target for this right-hand thrown by Kurt Von Steiger.

Stevens and Sullivan handily. In fact, we gave them the thrashing of their lives. We showed the California fans just what great champions are made of by winning back our title," added Kurt.

"Stevens, Sullivan and that crazy Moondog Mayne don't even belong in the same ring with us. They are in the wrong business, all three should be working in the sewers," he added. "Who were your toughest opponents?"

"Don Curtis and Mark Lewin gave us some of our toughest battles when we were in Australia. King Curtis Iaukea and Moondog Mayne were also tough," answered Karl.

"What are your current goals?"

"We intend to continue showing off our German superiority to the wrestling world. If we have to break our opponents' arms, backs, legs and necks we will do that too.

"While we are in the California area, we intend to cripple guys like Pepper Gomez, Jerry Monti, Ray Stevens, Kevin Sullivan and Dean Ho and put them out of the wrestling business," retorted Kurt.

"Well, gentlemen, I want to thank you for this interview."

"You can consider it a privilege," replied Karl as the brothers headed for their dressing room to prepare for another night of mat mayhem.

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52 / WRESTLING MONTHLY — OCTOBER 1978

HUNGARIANS TOP THE LIST OF MAT CHAMPS

By JESS HERNANDEZ

Hungarian matmen top the all-time list in producing world champions in the span of the past 50 years. Leading the way in coping titular honors for grapplers of Hungarian blood was Joe Varga, the patriarch, of early-day titleholders. In 1913, Varga established himself as the world's premier hercules with the astonishing feat of winning three Olympic Games wrestling crowns — middleweight, light-heavyweight and heavyweight!

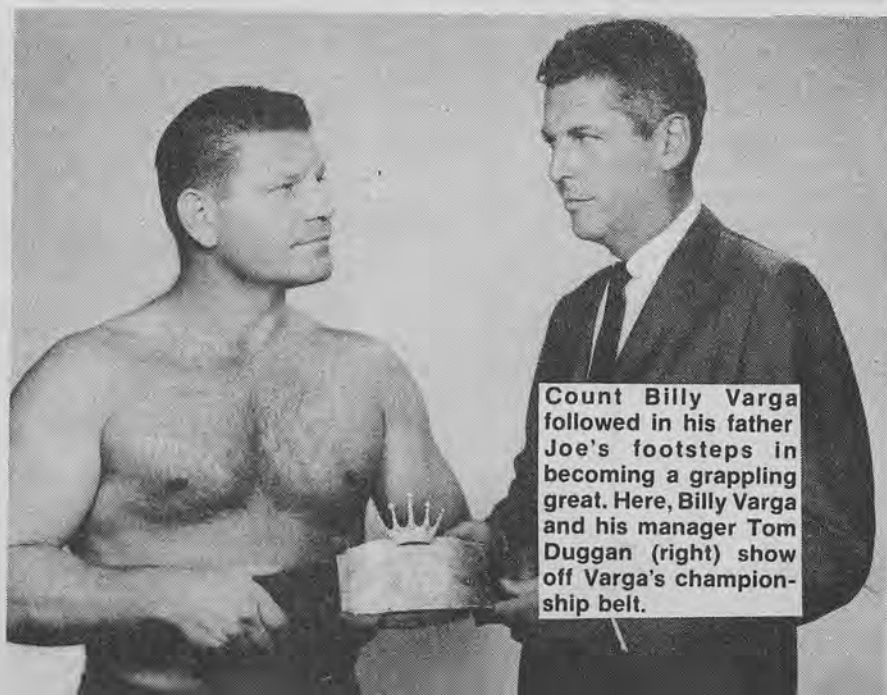
In the 1920s, Varga, a sturdy six-footer with immense physical strength, joined the professional circuit and pinned the muscular shoulders of Jimmy Londos, Joe Stecher and Everett Marshall. Varga engaged in over 1,000 matches before retiring at the age of 54!

Joe's noble mat achievements were

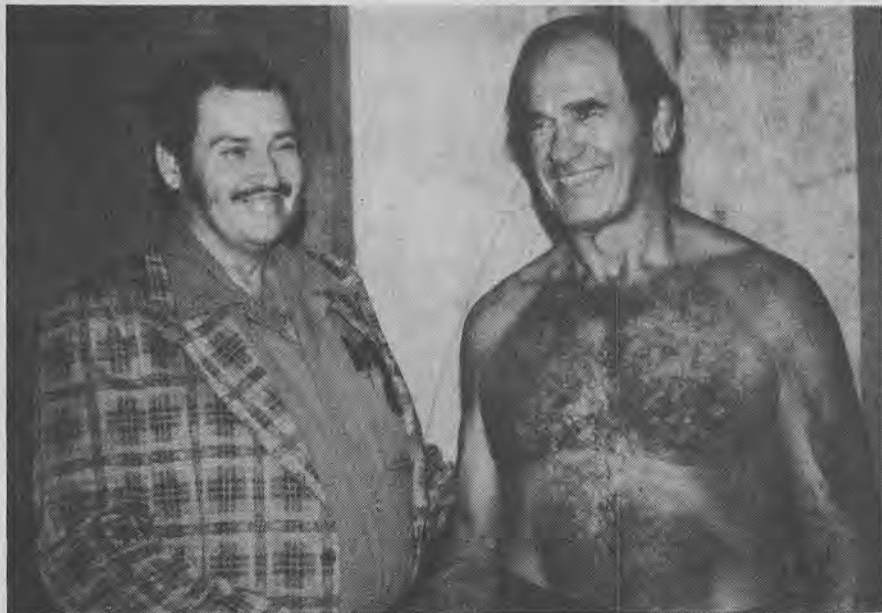
further augmented when his son Billy Varga won the world's championship in 1948. The combination of father Joe and son Billy winning the world's title is firmly embedded in Ripley's Believe It or Not. It's One for the Book in the annals of wrestling fanfare.

Traditionally, matmen of Hungarian descent have spreadeagled the field in impeccable style with the Hungarian Adonis Lou Thesz, the 'peoples choice' as the all-time mat wonder. Lou's first venture as world monarch came in 1937 when he captured the title from Everett Marshall. Subsequently, St. Louis-born Thesz copped the crown jewels six times, an unprecedented feat.

Budapest-born Sandor Szabo was the patriarch of popular Hungarian



Count Billy Varga followed in his father Joe's footsteps in becoming a grappling great. Here, Billy Varga and his manager Tom Duggan (right) show off Varga's championship belt.



One of Hungary's gifts to the grappling game is six-time world champion Lou Thesz (right), shown here with Malden, Mo., promoter Henry Rodgers.

matmen in the '30s and his crowning achievement came in 1941 when he won the world's diadem.

Vern Gagne fills the mold of superstar athletes of Hungarian descent who scaled matdom's heights. A collegian of scientific training, Gagne remains a popular all-time favorite.

Rivalling the Hungarian mat corps in producing numerous titleholders are grapplers of Italian descent. Jumping Joe Savoldi was a fiery Italian who won the world's championship from Jimmy Londos in 1933. Savoldi was a Notre Dame All-American gridiron hero before launching a pro career in 1930.

Bruno Sammartino from Abruzzi, Italy, the current 'peoples' choice' in popularity remains the patriarch of Italian champions.

Primo Carnera, the ponderous 6-foot-6, 275-pounder reeled off 300 straight victories on his way to the world's title in 1949.

Barone Michele Leone claimed the title in the '50s and was probably the No. 1 gold nugget in attendance during the heyday of wrestling's Golden Era.

Maria Bernardi the Godmother of female gals was the original fiery grappler to emerge as champion in 1952.

Although the Hungarians and Italians far outdistance the field in producing world monarchs, matmen

of Mexican descent who won the global crown include Vincent Lopez, Mil Mascaras, Chavo Guerrero.

Polish-born titleholders include Tiger Joe Marsh, Stanislaus Zbysbo, Gene Kiniski, Bronko Nagurski.

Irish-born titans who scaled wrestling's heights were Danno O'Mahoney, who beat Jimmy Londos for the diadem in 1935; Pat O'Connor, who beat Dick Hutton for the title in 1959, and Steve (Crusher) Casey who dethroned Lou Thesz to take the championship in 1938.

Probably the greatest Greek champion of all time was the immortal Jimmy Londos who ruled the mat derby for five unprecedented years — 1930 to 1935. Other Greek Mat Adonis over the years have been John Tolos, who seems to have found the fountain of youth in popularity, and Spiros Arion, the good guy turned bad.

Despite the many ancestral backgrounds in the mat fraternity, matmen of Hungarian birth remain supreme and unchallenged as the No. 1 producers of heavyweight champs. From Joe Varga to Lou Thesz to Sandor Szabo the Hungarian corps of grapplers rank Numero Uno in greatness and skill. They continue to rule the roost in popularity which has become traditional since the advent of colorful Joe Varga, the original Hungarian Adonis!

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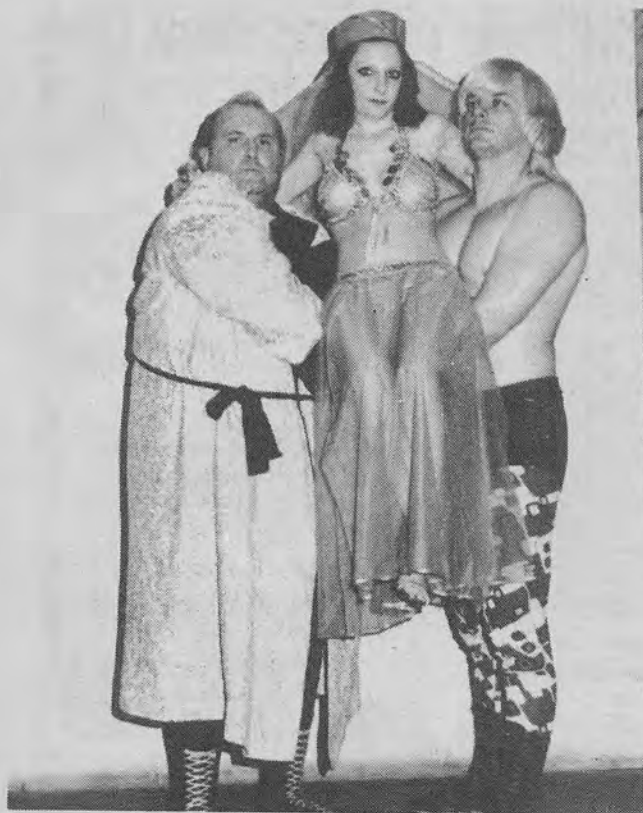
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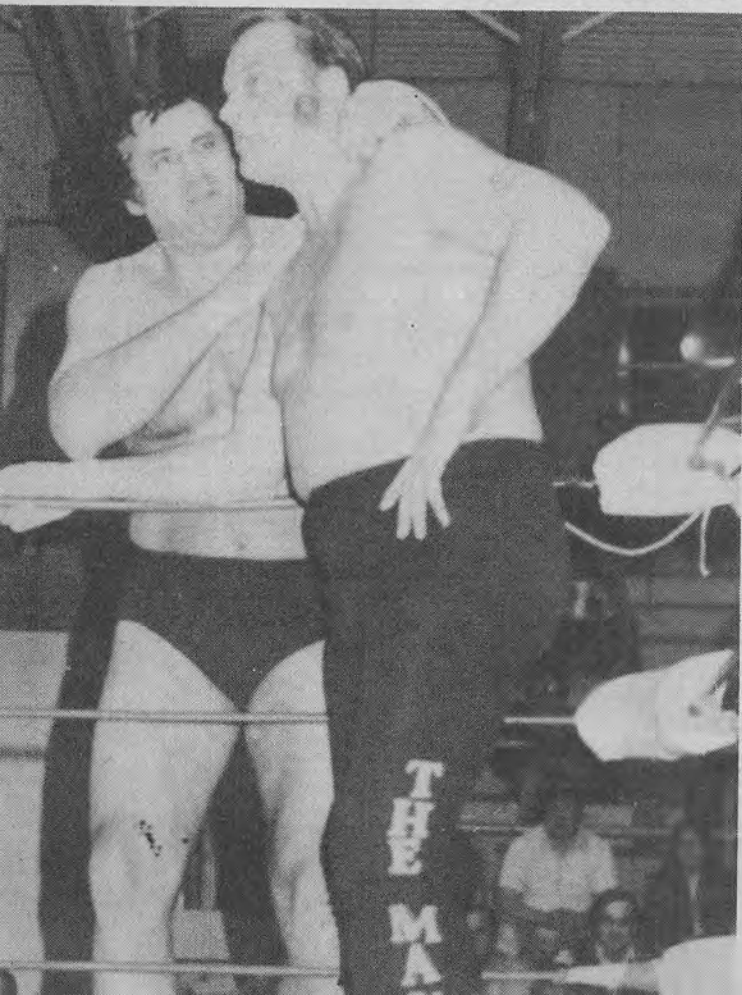
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WRESTLING MONTHLY — OCTOBER 1978 / 53



Here's a before and after look at the wonderful world of wrestling. The father-son team of Dr. Jerry Graham (left) and Jerry Jr. pose for a picture with their valette. After the bout, the Grahams are bloody but unbowed as Dr. Jerry consoles his son.



VALOTTA'S VIEWS OF THE GRAPPING GAME

By TONY VALOTTA

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An up-and-coming star in the grappling game is Brady Howard.



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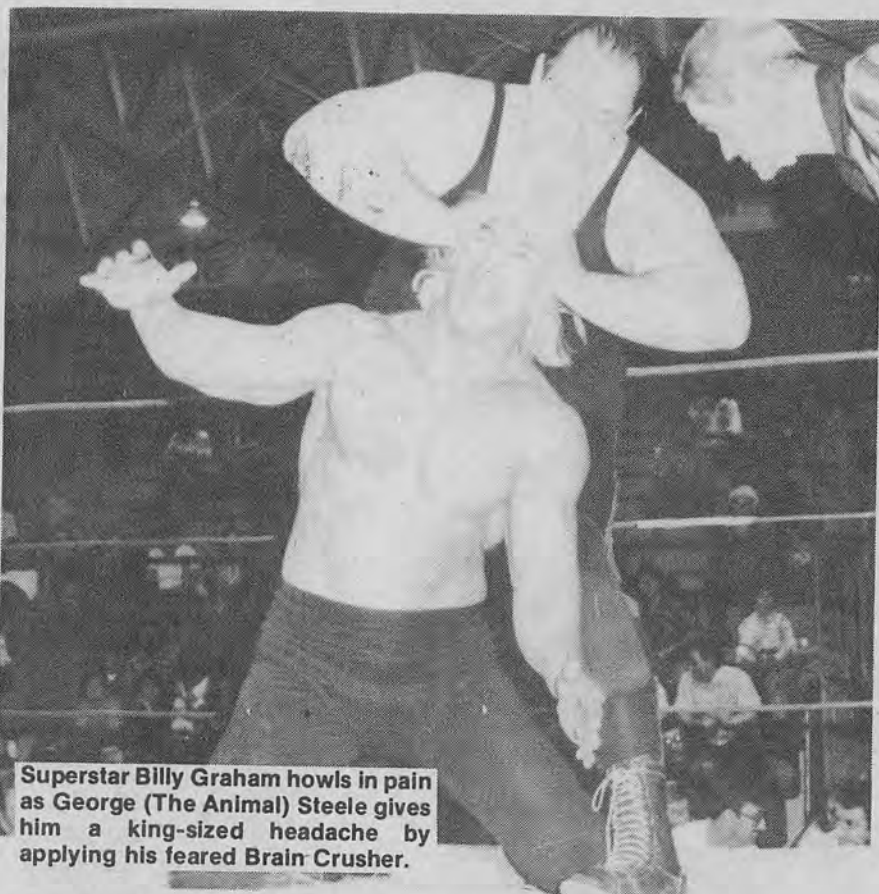


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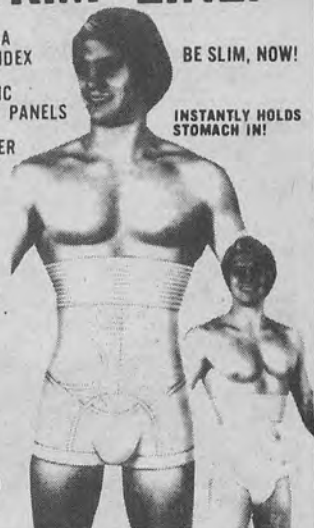
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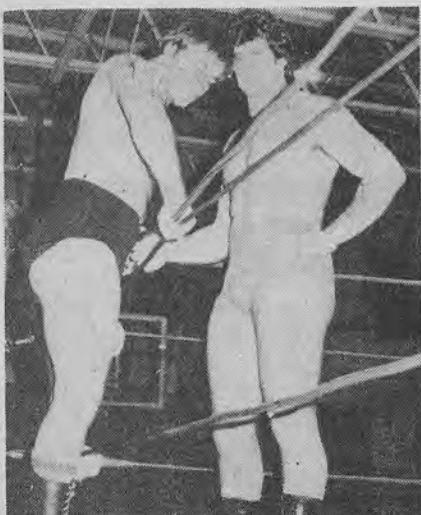


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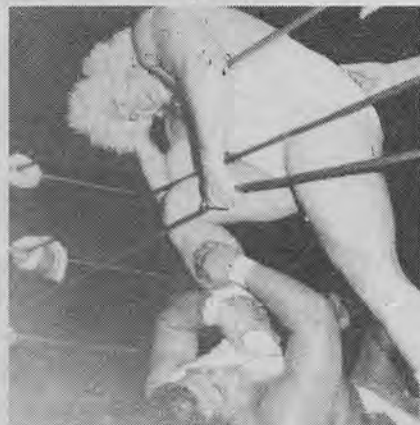
The villainous Nikolai Volkoff is making life miserable for Dominic DeNucci as he applies a chokehold.



A top-notch tag-team combination Larry Zbyszko (left) and Tony Garea discuss strategy before the start of a match.



Larry Zbyszko is on his own here and probably could use some help as Spiros Arion prepares to drive his fingers into Larry's eyes.



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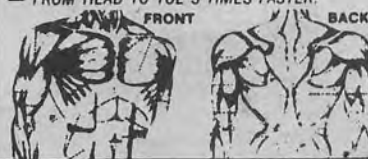
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ORGAN Shortcut "Amazing" free lesson and details. Box MP-431, Dunkirk, N.Y. 14048

ATTACK Dogs Training Information. Free details. Make money. Sentinel, 5245 N. Arkansas, Wichita, Ks. 67204

DETECTIVE Training, Equipment. Free information. Global, Box T-10, Twin Peaks, Ca. 92391

SLEEP Learning. 92% effective. Reduce tension, control habits. Details, A.S.R. Foundation, Box 23429N, Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. 33307

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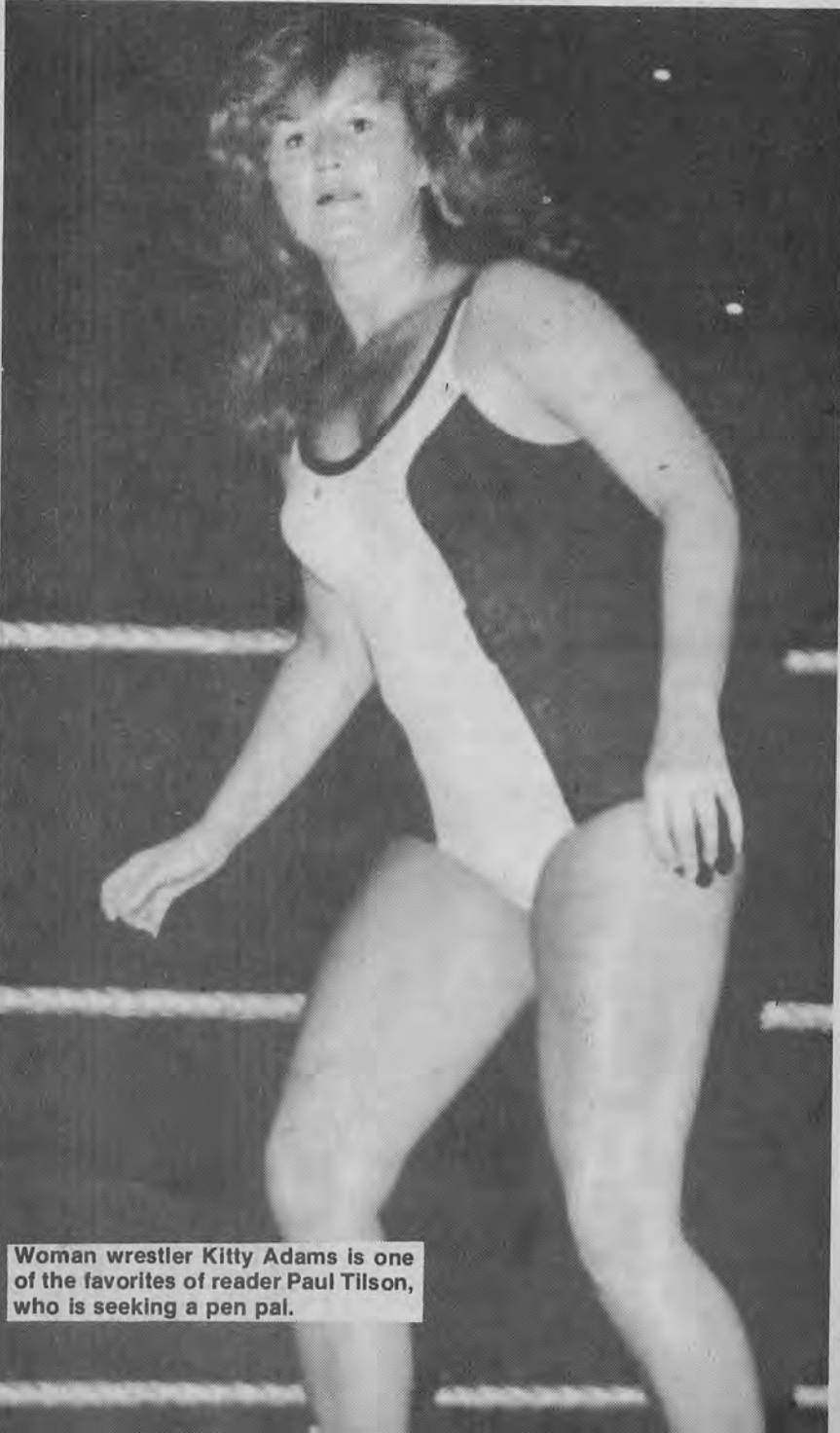
HONOR HOUSE Dept. 535PG76 Lynbrook, N.Y., 11563
NY State residents add state and local sales tax.

WRESTLING MONTHLY'S

Dear Sir:

I just thought I would drop you a few lines and to have my name and address added to your Fan Club Hotline, for I would love to have pen pals young and old any age), male or female.

I have been a wrestling fan for the past 17 years and I have met some great wrestlers such as Ray Stevens, Danny Hodge, Dick Murdock, Cowboy Bill Watts, Greg Valentine, Grizzly Smith, Ted DiBiase, Bob Griffin, Jay Clayton, Sonny Rogers,



Woman wrestler Kitty Adams is one of the favorites of reader Paul Tilson, who is seeking a pen pal.

PEN PALS

Ken Mantell, Rocky Johnson, Pat Patterson, and Sonny King.

My other favorites are Susan Green, Paula Kaye, Fredrika Hansen, Victor Rivera, Andre The Giant, Bobo Brazil, Bruno Sammartino, Ivan Putski, Pork Chop, Haystack Calhoun, Gorgeous George Jr., Tony Parisi, Louis Cerdan, Jerry and Jack Brisco, The Fabulous Moolah, Man Mountain Mike, Pepper Gomez, John Tolos, Paul Mata, Mando Lopez, Micky Doyle, The Mighty Igor, Chief Jay Strongbow, Joyce Grable, Manny Soto, Pete Sanchez, Larry Zbyszko and Dusty Rhodes — to name just a few.

When I was 19 years old I wanted to make wrestling my career, but I broke my right collarbone while in the ring in Sacramento, Calif., and that was the end of my wrestling days. However, I've been a fan ever since.

My other interests are travel, roller derby, country and western and rock and roll music, swimming, dancing, hiking and horseback riding.

I would love to have pen pals male or female from any age group (9 to 90).

My full name and address is:

Leo Lessley
P.O. Box 200
Noel, Missouri, 64854.

Dear Sir:

I would like to include my name as a Wrestling Monthly Pen Pal.

Name - Lesley Miller

Age - 16

Address - 63 Columbia Avenue, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Favorite wrestler - Rick Martel

Other hobbies - Horseback riding, darts and most outdoor sports.

I would like to correspond with someone in the Montreal, Canada, area who is 15 years of age or older.

Many thanks for your time.

Sincerely,
Lesley Miller.



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WRESTLING MONTHLY WORDSEARCH

By BARBARA REEVES



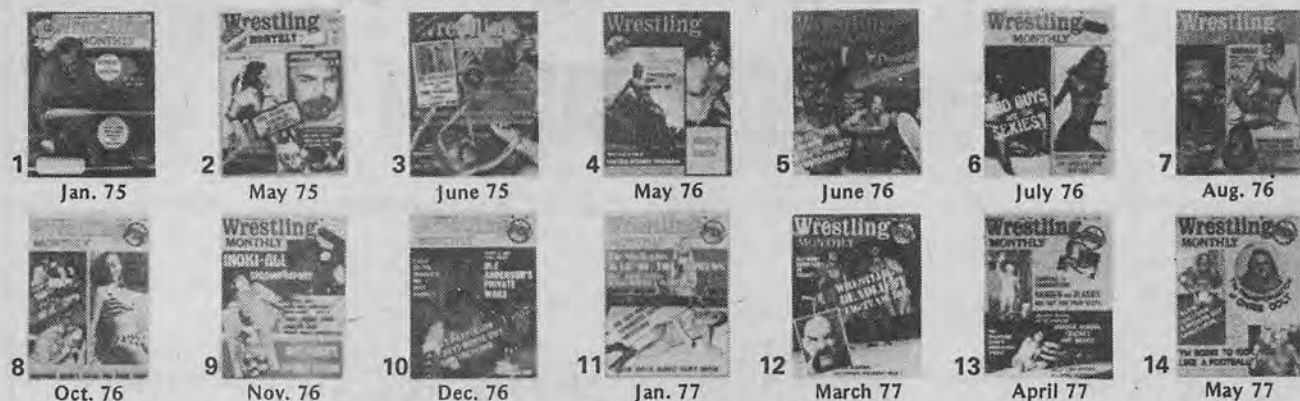
This month's puzzle is a slight departure from the usual Wordsearch. Instead of providing a list of words to find with the remaining letters spelling out the name of a mystery wrestler, if you search carefully you can find the names of 20 wrestlers among this maze of letters.

See if you can find all 20 wrestlers. Good luck.

(Solution on Page 64)

WRESTLING BACK ISSUES

WRESTLING MONTHLY



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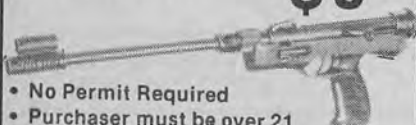
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C
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Mil Mascaras
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P
Ivan Putski

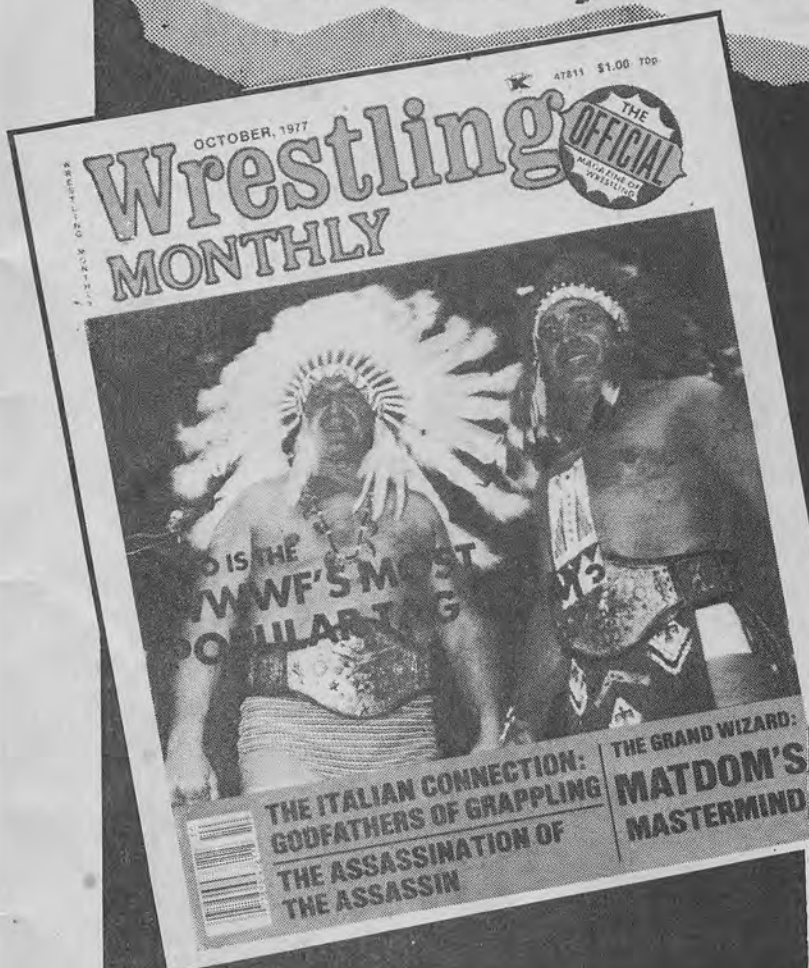
R
Victor Rivera
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S
Bruno Sammartino
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Chavo Guerrero, shown applying his surfboard hold is a highly-regarded grappler who looms as a titleholder of the future.

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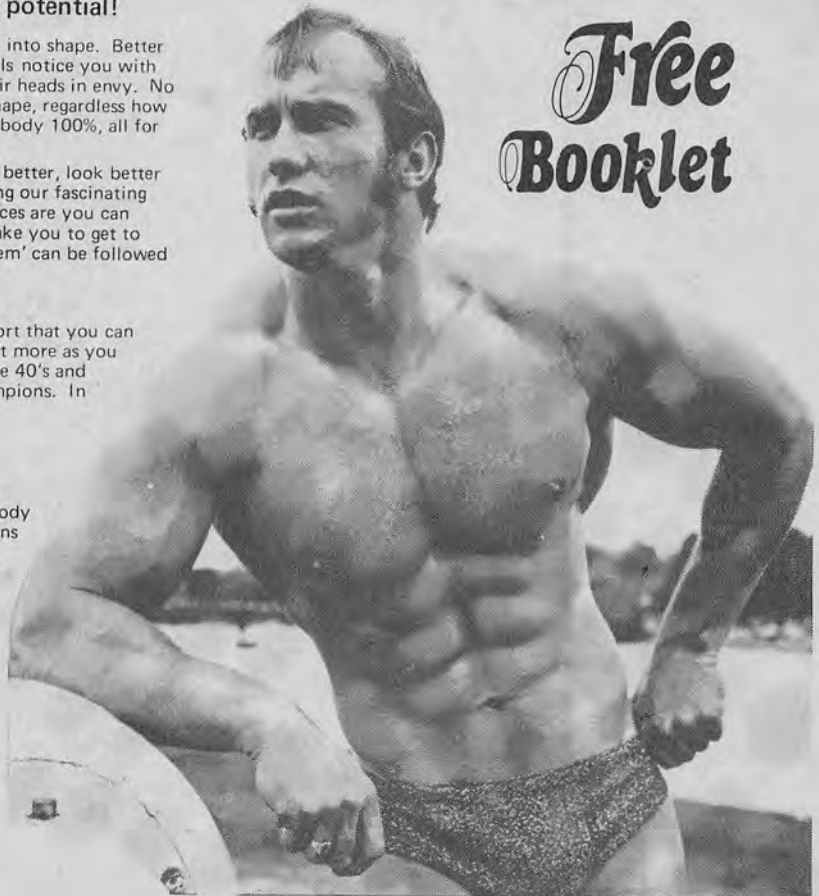
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